THE Valley INDEPENDENT
An Edition of the TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Cal U eyes future

Cal U coach Bill Brown rarely looks ahead, but finally he can do so. **1B**

Musicals in the making

Three Valley high schools are putting the final touches on spring musicals. **8A**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2008 RELEVANT, RELIABLE WWW.VALLEYINDEPENDENT.COM 50¢

Pension plan strong

Taxpayer subsidy estimates for the state system have been greatly reduced.

By MARK SCOLFORO
Associated Press Writer

HARRISBURG – Pennsylvania's state government pension system reaped a 17.2 percent rate of return last year, greatly diminishing the size of a projected spike in the system's taxpayer subsidy.

The State Employees' Retirement System said Wednesday it collected more than $5 billion on investments in 2007 and registered one of the highest rates of returns among large public pension plans.

The median return for large plans last year was 8.7 percent, according to the Wilshire Trust Universe Comparison Survey, an industry measuring stick. The S&P 500 grew by 5.49 percent in 2007.

Just five years ago, pension officials projected that "employers" – mostly taxpayers – would have to kick in 28 percent of the state government's massive payroll to keep the system afloat in 2012. As a result of its strong investment performance, the system now expects the taxpayers' share to be less than 8 percent.

Pension system administrators say its broadly diversified portfolio is the reason returns have ranged from 14.5 percent to 24.3 percent over the last five years.

The high returns are certain to increase pressure from retirees on the Legislature to provide a cost-of-living increase in their pensions for the first time since 2002. The total initial price tag of the four cost-of-living adjustments passed from 1988 to 2002 was $4.7 billion.

Pension fund officials said the price of a cost-of-living adjustment would be equal in size to the 2002 raise, for both school and government pensioners, would be $3 billion.

Rep. Stephen Barrar, R-Delaware, asked pension officials at an Appropriations Committee hearing Wednesday about the feasibility of implementing some sort of systematic cost-of-living increase.

Without one, he said, "every so many years we're going to do a

(See PENSION, Page 2A)

INSIDE TODAY

Market strong

Despite obvious danger, jobs in Iraq are appealing. **5A**

Valley Oldies

Variety marked the news in *The Valley Independent* in February 1978. **3A**

SPORTS

Pitt rebounds

Pitt came from behind to defeat Cincinnati and end a three-game slide. **3B**

That's Racin'

Jimmie Johnson is out to win a fourth consecutive race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. **2B**

DEATHS

- Anna Mae Merichko Gordon, 79, Bentleyville
- James W. Greenwood, 89, West Newton, formerly of Rostraver Township
- Perry Roy Ridge, 65, Daisytown
- Floyd E. Sterner, 88, Stockdale

Page 4A

WEATHER

Tonight
Mostly cloudy 18°
Tomorrow
Snow 35°

Page 2A

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Television	5B

Three sections, 20 pages

TOMORROW

Read Valley Seniors, which appears each Friday in *The Valley Independent*.

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Gaming regulator claims he was misled

Kenneth McCabe said information from top state police officials was inadequate.

By BRAD BUMSTED
For The Valley Independent
bbumsted@tribweb.com

HARRISBURG – Kenneth McCabe, a Gaming Control Board member and a former FBI agent, said he was "misled" by the two top-ranking officers of the Pennsylvania State Police in 2006 while the board was considering a license for Louis DeNaples, who was charged with perjury last month.

McCabe told a state Senate committee Wednesday that Col. Jeffrey Miller, the state police commander, and former Lt. Col. Ralph Periandi didn't give him adequate information to make a decision about DeNaples, who was awarded a casino license in December 2006.

"I believe I was misled," McCabe said.

Prosecutors say DeNaples lied about his ties to organized crime figures. DeNaples maintains his innocence.

Miller declined comment through state police spokesman Jack Lewis. Periandi, who was testifying at a House Republican Policy Committee on gambling, said that McCabe's statement was "an attempt to deflect responsibility and try to put this on the state police."

Periandi said he did not understand how McCabe could claim the board was uninformed by state police when the board's Bureau of Investigations referred information to the state police that DeNaples may have lied to them.

"Their perjury recommendation was referred to us," Periandi said. "If they didn't have a vertical chain of command, you'll have to ask them why that would be the case."

Several officials disagreed on what was -- or even could be -- communicated between police and the gambling board.

The board's investigative unit did not inform commissioners about investigator's suspicions, agency officials said. "They couldn't, by law, inform the board," said board spokesman Doug Harbach.

The Bureau of Investigations "is independent of the commissioners," said its director, David Kwait, who denied any perjury referral to state police. His agents "suspected (DeNaples) may not have been candid. They had no solid evidence one way or the other," Kwait said.

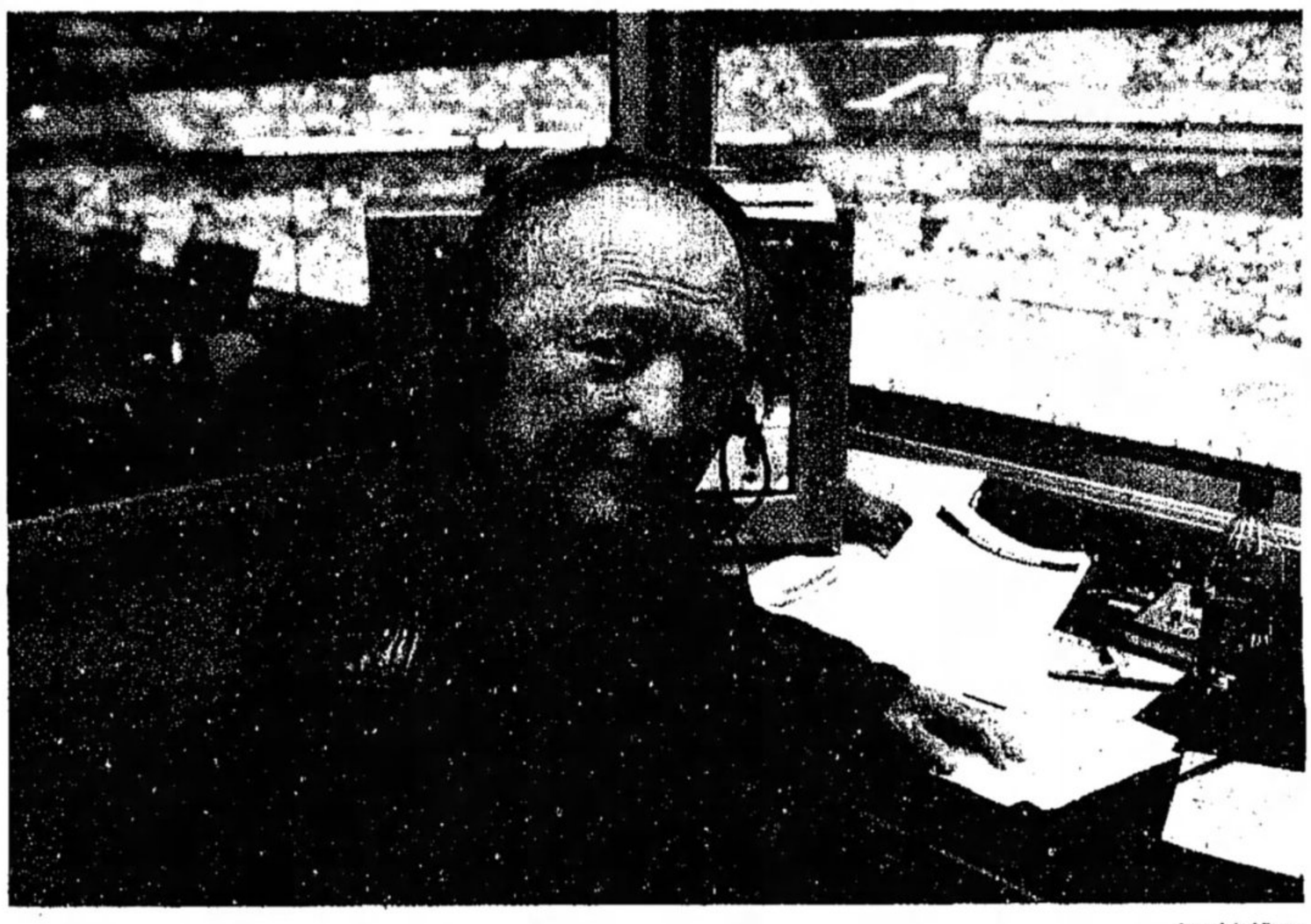
McCabe said there was a memorandum of understanding between the agencies that information would be shared. And Kwait said state police requested a transcript of the bureau's depositions of DeNaples.

Periandi has said federal law prohibits the state police from sharing "intelligence" with a non-law enforcement agency such as the Gaming Control Board.

DeNaples owns the Mount Airy Lodge in the Poconos, which is now being run by a trustee. The board suspended DeNaples'

(See MISLED, Page 2A)

'BYE, NOW'



Associated Press

Pittsburghers and Steelers' fans everywhere today are mourning the death of former color commentator, sportswriter and talk show host Myron Cope. ***For more on the outrageous icon, see Page 1B.***

Month-long slide continues for new home sales, prices

Real estate market conditions have not been this bad since February 1995.

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON – In more bad news for the beleaguered housing industry, sales of new homes fell in January for a third straight month, pushing activity down to the slowest pace in nearly 13 years. The median price of a new home dropped to the lowest level in more than three years.

The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that new home sales fell by 2.8 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 588,000 units, the slowest pace since February 1995.

The median price of a new home dropped to $216,000 in January, down 4.3 percent from the December median sales price, the point where half the homes sold for more and half for less. That was the lowest median price since September 2004 and underscored that the steep slide in housing is still under way.

Analysts believe that housing activity has further to fall as a tidal wave of mortgage foreclosures is dumping more unsold homes on an already glutted market. For January, the inventory of unsold homes dropped but since the pace of sales activity slowed as well, the number of months it would take to exhaust the current inventory rose to 9.9 months, the longest period in more than 26 years.

Until this inventory backlog is worked down further, economists are predicting more declines in prices in the months ahead.

The 2.8 percent drop in new home sales in January followed even bigger declines of 4 percent in December and 13.1 in November and represented weakness in every part of the country except the West, which saw sales increase by 2.2 percent.

Sales fell by 10.3 percent in the Northeast and dropped by 7.6 percent in the Midwest and 2.4 percent in the South.

Earlier this week, a real estate trade group reported that sales of existing homes had fallen by 0.4 percent in January, pushing existing home sales down to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.89 million units, the weakest showing on records going back to 1999.

Financial markets, however, were bolstered Wednesday by the announcement that regulators will allow Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac – the biggest sources of financing for U.S. home loans -- to

(See HOME, Page 2A)

Fallowfield closes part of Kevech Road

The supervisors have added three part-time police officers to the force.

By CHRIS BUCKLEY
Staff Writer
cbuckley@tribweb.com

FALLOWFIELD TOWNSHIP – A road considered to be unsafe for large vehicles has been temporarily closed while the supervisors determine what should be done.

The supervisors made the decision on Kevech Road during a Wednesday meeting.

Supervisor Donn Henderson said the township road crew deemed the road unsafe. Replacing the guard rails would cost $60,000, Henderson said. That's why the road is being closed on a temporary basis.

The stretch is on the Van Voohris side of the roadway, at its intersection with Bogden Road.

Supervisor Olga Woodward said a slide occurred on the road. Supervisor Herman Pennline said he checked out the road and believes it to be dangerous.

The board directed the township secretary to send notice of the closure to the fire department, emergency medical service, garbage collection firm and Washington County 911.

Henderson recommended the supervisors meet with fire officials to discuss concerns about response to fires relative to the closure.

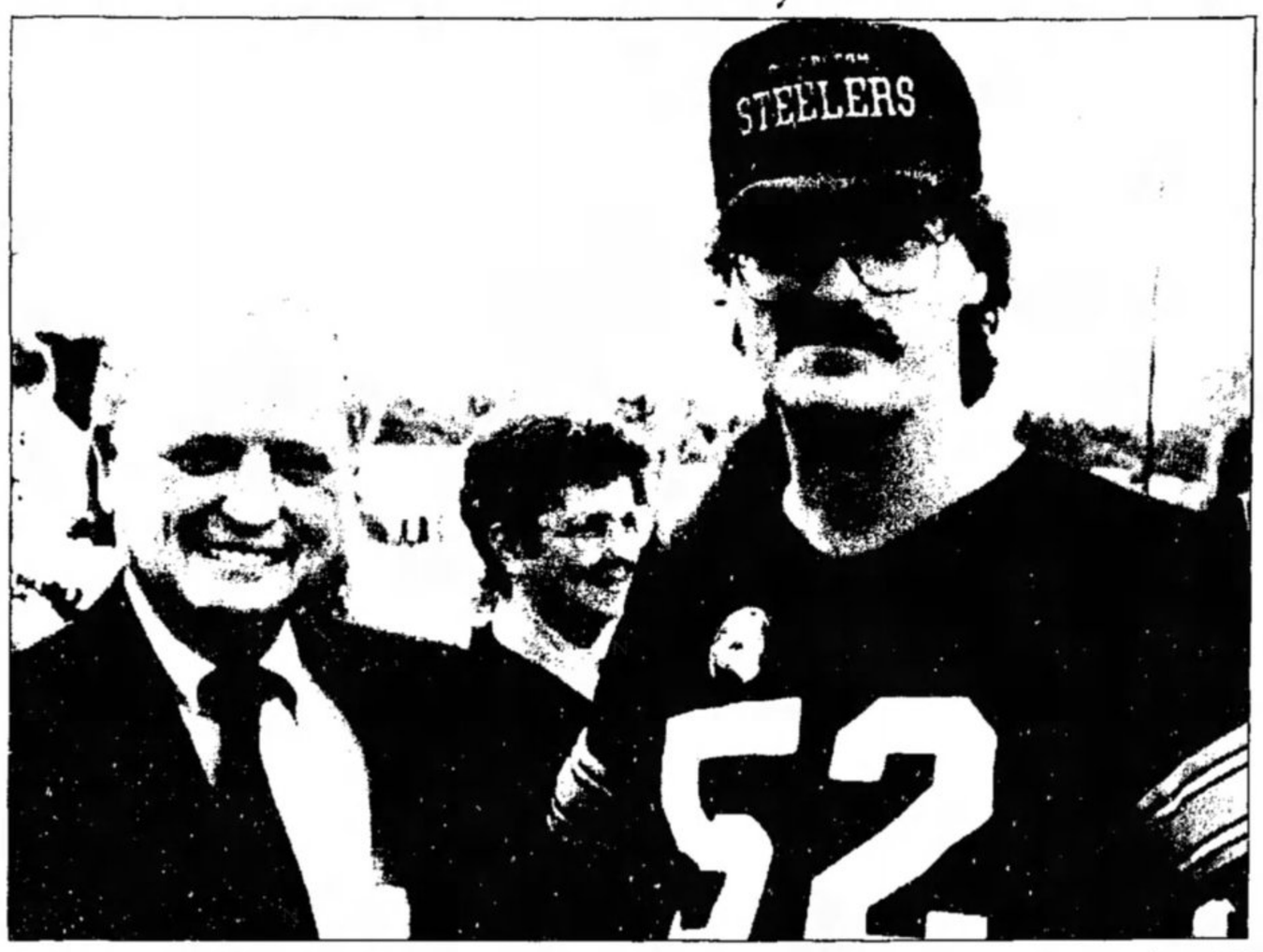
In other business, the board hired three part-time police officers, Brian Tennant, Rob Helphenstien, and Chris Taylor.

With the additions, police will be on duty about 85 percent of the time, up from 60 percent.

The board agreed to participate in the Washington County Conservation program, which offers grants to repair dirt roads and provide proper drainage.

VALLEY PEOPLE

Yesteryear



Dennis Shannon, of California, Pa., an ad designer at *The Valley Independent*, is seen with Myron Cope at a Steelers tailgate party at Wetterau in Rostraver Township in the 1970s.

If you have a good oldtime photograph, send it to us at Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa., 15062.

Weather

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
High 35 Low 25	High 28 Low 20	High 42 Low 30	High 48 Low 32	High 42 Low 32

House seeks new oil industry tax

The money would go to tax breaks for alternative energy.

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON – The House approved $18 billion in new taxes on the largest oil companies Wednesday as Democrats cited record oil prices and rising gasoline costs in a time of economic troubles.

The money collected over 10 years would provide tax breaks for wind, solar and other alternative energy sources and for energy conservation.

The legislation, approved 236-182, would cost the five largest oil companies an average of $1.8 billion a year over that period, according an analysis by the House Ways and Means Committee. Those companies earned $123 billion last year.

Senate Democratic leaders said they would put the bill on a fast track and try to avoid a Republican filibuster. The White House said the bill unfairly takes aim at the oil industry. President Bush is expected to veto the legislation if it passes Congress.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., noted it was two years ago, when oil cost $55 a barrel, when Bush said oil companies need no government subsidies to pursue more oil or gas.

"With the price of oil hovering around $100 do we really believe this incentive is justified?" asked Hoyer. "Do these companies need taxpayer subsidies to look for new product? They don't need any incentive."

Republicans said the measure unfairly targeted a single industry.

"It punishes the oil and gas industry. This is wrongheaded. It will result in higher prices at the gasoline pump. It's spiteful and wrong," said Rep. Jim McCrery, R-La.

The top Republican on the Ways and Means Committee, which developed the tax proposals, he cited statistics that show that oil companies already pay more taxes than many other industries.

Hoyer acknowledged "this legislation alone will not bring down gas prices." But he said the measure will provide a needed boost to alternative energy industries – solar, wind, biofuels, and geothermal – and help promote energy conservation. "That may bring down gas prices three years from now, 10 years from now," he said.

The bill would roll back two lucrative tax breaks for the five largest U.S. oil companies. One helps manufacturers compete against foreign companies; the other gives American companies a tax credit related to oil and gas extraction outside the country. Democrats estimated that those current breaks would save the oil companies $17.65 billion in taxes over the next 10 years.

The House-passed bill would use that money to promote renewable energy industries – such as wind, solar and cellulosic ethanol plants – by extending tax credits that recently expired or are scheduled to end at year's end.

The bill would offer tax credits for more energy efficient homes and a credit for "plug-in" gas-electric hybrid cars that would capture electricity off the power grid, once such cars become available in showrooms.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the shift of tax benefits from oil to alternative energy development was critical to increased energy independence and lowering energy costs.

She noted the House twice last year passed similar tax plans, but they died in the Senate.

Since then, the price of gasoline has climbed and large oil companies have made record profits, Pelosi said. ilibuster.

Bloomberg claims he's not running for president

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK – After two years of playing coy about his presidential ambitions, Mayor Michael Bloomberg declared in a newspaper editorial Wednesday that he will not run for president but might support the candidate who "takes an independent, nonpartisan approach."

The 66-year-old billionaire businessman, who aides had said was prepared to spend $1 billion to run as an independent, wrote in an editorial on The New York Times' Web site that he will work to "steer the national conversation away from partisanship and toward unity; away from ideology and toward common sense; away from sound bites and toward substance."

Bloomberg, who has almost two years left in his second term at City Hall, had publicly denied any interest in running for president.

Pension plan performance

Recent investment returns by Pennsylvania's two major public-sector pension plans:

Public School Employees' Retirement System

2003-04: 19.7 percent
2004-05: 12.9 percent
2005-06: 15.3 percent
2006-07: 22.9 percent
Assets: $67.4 billion

State Employees' Retirement System

2003: 24.3 percent
2004: 15.1 percent
2005: 14.5 percent
2006: 16.4 percent
2007: 17.2 percent
Assets: $35 billion

Note: PSERS is on a July-June fiscal year; SERS goes by the calendar year.

Pension (FROM PAGE ONE)

COLA whether we can afford it or not."

SERS chairman Nicholas J. Maiale warned that current projections assume an 8.5 percent annual rate of return in the coming years. In the last quarter of 2007, SERS earned 1.6 percent, while similar plans averaged a loss of 0.56 percent.

"I caution you that markets change, and the last two months so far have been turbulent," he told the Appropriations Committee. "Who knows what'll happen over the next six or seven?"

Pennsylvania's state government pension system has more than $35 billion in assets and more than 215,000 members.

The Public School Employees' Retirement System, which covers 264,000 active and 168,000 retired teachers and other school employees, also has seen its investments lower the contribution spike expected in 2012-13. Its spike been expected to reach 27 percent of payroll, but now is projected at just over 11 percent.

The teachers' pension system's investment returns have ranged from 12.9 percent to 23 percent since 2003. PSERS has assets of about $67.4 billion

Misled (FROM PAGE ONE)

license shortly after he was charged by the Dauphin County District Attorney's Office.

Meanwhile, the House Republican Policy Committee heard testimony from a former state gambling consultant that of 12 states with legalized gambling, Pennsylvania is one of two where the investigative arm isn't a law enforcement agency. The other is Michigan.

That testimony came from Frederic Gushin, managing director of the Spectrum Gaming Group.

Spectrum was a subcontractor under Information Services Group, hired by the governor's Office of Administration and the Department of Revenue to set up "a blueprint and strategic plan" for the gambling board. Spectrum called for state police to be involved in background investigations of applicants, Gushin said.

The report to the state by ISP didn't include Spectrum's recommendation, Gushin said.

Rep, Mike Turzai, R-Bradford Woods, chairman of the policy committee, said he interpreted Gushin's testimony as saying that Gov. Ed Rendell's administration "suppressed" Spectrum's recommendation.

"I cannot imagine a legitimate, justifiable reason for not taking these recommendations seriously," Turzai said.

Chuck Ardo, Rendell's spokesman, replied: "Not only did the administration not suppress any recommendations, but the administration had nothing to do with the gaming board's decision on background checks."

Home (FROM PAGE ONE)

lift temporarily the ceilings on the size of mortgages that they will be able to back, thus making more mortgages available to combat the current credit squeeze.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished the day up 9.36 points at 12,694.28, its fourth straight positive close.

Analysts still forecast more home price declines until the inventory levels are worked down further. A rising tide of mortgage foreclosures is pushing even more unsold homes onto the glutted market and financial institutions have tightened lending standards since a credit crisis hit with full force last August, making it harder for prospective buyers to qualify for loans.

"There can be no doubt at all that the housing market is suffering a catastrophic collapse. There is no sign yet that a bottom is near," said Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, a private forecasting firm.

The weakness in housing has spread to the rest of the economy, raising the prospects the country could fall into a full-blown recession. The country is being battered by the prolonged slump in housing, a serious credit squeeze and soaring energy prices.

In another sign of trouble, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday that orders to U.S. factories for big-ticket manufactured goods plunged in January by the largest amount in five months, an indication that manufacturers are being caught in the weakness engulfing the rest of the economy.

The 5.3 percent drop in new orders last month reflected declines across a wide swath of industry from commercial aircraft and autos to heavy machinery and computers.

A growing number of analysts believe the economy will slip into a recession this quarter although they expect the downturn to be short and mild, thanks to aggressive interest rate cuts from the Federal Reserve and a $168 billion economic stimulus package passed by Congress earlier this month. Millions of households will begin seeing rebate checks in May that should give the economy a boost starting this summer.

The orders weakness was led by a 13.4 percent decrease in orders for transportation equipment, which reflected a 30.5 percent plunge in demand for commercial aircraft and a 0.8 percent fall in demand for motor vehicles and parts.

The report showed that orders for non-defense capital goods excluding aircraft, considered a good proxy for business investment, fell by 1.4 percent last month.

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(724) 684-2600 or 1-800-564-9000

8am - 6pm Monday - Friday • Closed Saturday

Circulation.....Linda Hutchison
Delivery.....Scott Sawa or Melissa Stima
Customer Service / Billing.....Cynthia Comet

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT MONESSEN, PA
USPS NO. 655-720

RATES:
Home Delivery.....$2.95 per week
.....$12.78 per month
Monday - Saturday Valley Independent and Sunday Tribune Review
Single Copy.....50 cents

MAIL RATES:
3 Months.....$50.00
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Finding Solutions for Care Givers TRIB

Valley briefs

Witness faults cop in Ellerbe shooting

A Pennsylvania state trooper who fatally shot a 12-year-old boy he thought had shot his partner failed to meet standards for using deadly force, a defense witness told a federal jury Wednesday.

Ken Katsaris, the former sheriff of Leon County, Fla., testified for the family of Michael Ellerbe, the Uniontown youth who was shot in the back as he ran from a stolen sport utility vehicle on Christmas Eve 2002.

Katsaris, who trains police officers on the use of deadly force, told jurors that such force is permitted only in limited situations and when the evidence supports that there is a reasonable, objective belief it is warranted.

"We don't allow the officers to do whatever they want to do," he said. "If that happened, we'd have problems."

Ellerbe's father, Michael Hickenbottom, named Troopers Samuel Nassan and Juan Curry in a wrongful death lawsuit alleging police used excessive force on his unarmed son. The boy died of a single gunshot wound to the back.

Nassan and Curry gave statements indicating they chased Ellerbe through a residential Uniontown neighborhood after he jumped from the SUV.

Curry said his gun accidentally discharged when he fell while trying to scale a fence during the foot chase. Nassan said he then fired on Ellerbe, thinking the boy had shot his partner.

Authorities declined to pursue criminal charges against the officers. Civil rights cases, however, have a reduced burden of proof.

Hearing waived in child assault case

A Charleroi man charged with burning his girlfriend's infant female child with hot water waived his right to a preliminary hearing Wednesday.

Shawn Robert Murphy, 21, of 404 Lookout Ave., Apt. 2, Charleroi, was charged with felony counts of aggravated assault and endangering the welfare of children and a misdemeanor count of recklessly endangering another person in relation to an incident at the home at about 11 a.m. Dec. 18.

According to an affidavit of probable cause filed at Magisterial District Judge Larry Hopkins' Charleroi office, Murphy told police that he was alone in the residence with the 32-day-old child when he held her under a faucet to rinse her off after wiping her with a washcloth.

The child's mother, Danna Leigh Diamond, 21, of 404 Lookout Ave., Apt. 2, had left her child in Murphy's care.

The child was taken to Mon Valley Hospital.

Hospital personnel contacted the police.

The baby had suffered second and third degree burns from her waist down, the affidavit states.

Diamond was charged with one felony count of endangering the welfare of children and one misdemeanor count of recklessly endangering the welfare of children in relation to her child being injured.

Hopkins dismissed those charges.

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Dr. Cyril H. Wecht

Faxes made big bucks for Wecht

Prosecutors at ex-coroner's trial make that claim to attack defense arguments downplaying the evidence.

By JASON CATO
For The Valley Independent
jcato@tribweh.com

Federal prosecutors on Wednesday attacked a defense argument that half the criminal case against former Allegheny County Coroner Cyril H. Wecht boils down to $4 in fax charges.

Those faxes sent from the county morgue, prosecutors said, represent private work done on county time that helped to earn Wecht hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Wilson said the charges against Wecht, 76, of Squirrel Hill represent a larger "scheme to defraud" in which the former coroner profited from his elected position and bilked private clients.

Wilson said that those faxes - which led to 24 of the 41 fraud and theft charges against Wecht - represent a fraction of the work done at the county morgue for Wecht's private business, Cyril H. Wecht and Pathology Associates.

Eileen Young, one of Wecht's former secretaries, had testified Tuesday she spent an estimated 103 1/2 minutes typing letters and invoices she faxed to Wecht's private clients at a cost of $3.96, county telephone records showed.

In trying to paint a systematic scheme that Wecht used the coroner's office for his private business, Wilson yesterday got Young, 61, to acknowledge that she sent more faxes for the company than those that lead to the criminal charges in the indictment.

It was Young's seventh and final day of testifying.

Wilson showed Young numerous county telephone records, questioning whether hundreds of faxes sent from her offic to recipients from New York to California, even Israel, had anything to do with county business. She acknowledged that many of them did not, but that other people used the fax machine.

She acknowledged that a 23-cent fax which led to Count 1, alleging fraud, netted $4,011 for Wecht's private business. Another fax that cost 24 cents to send brought $7,500 in private fees and an additional $843 in travel reimbursements.

Those fees, in part, were generated by county employees using county resources to work on Wecht's private cases, the government contends.

Wilson focused on the private work Young performed from the coroner's office on June 3, 2004, choosing that day to illustrate what prosecutors claim was a daily pattern.

Records from Young's computer showed she worked on 25 documents for private clients that day, starting at 9:44 a.m. and ending at

(See WECHT, Page 4A)

Many drew headlines 30 years ago

Ron **PAGLIA**

Variety marked the news in *The Valley Independent* in February 1978.

Here are just some of the people and events drawing headlines on this cold day 30 years ago:

■ The high temperature of 36 degrees came at noon. Periods of snow were expected through tomorrow, accumulating one to three inches with overnight lows in the teens. A Page 1 picture in the newspaper showed snow and ice on frozen Pigeon Creek in Carroll Township. The ice was so thick that area residents were able to walk on it.

■ Ruth Ellis, a teacher, was sworn into office as one of three Donora Borough auditors. Ms. Ellis won a four-year term as a write-in candidate in the November eeneral Election. She joined veteran Henry Badzik and newly-appointed Karen Polkabla as borough auditors.

■ Solarama Engineers, solar designers and energy specialists, announced plans for a grand opening Wednesday, March 1, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at its site at 415 Fallowfield Ave., Charleroi. Refreshments were to be served and the top door prize was an automatic flue damper (installed).

■ The Mon Valley Humane Society was making plans for a benefit finger food sale March 18 in front of Fishers Big Wheel at Chamber Plaza in Charleroi. President Lois Hawe conducted the group's business meeting at the Mon Valley Community Health Center in Monessen.

■ Charleroi Borough Council adopted an amended 1978 budget that should provide a $202 balance at the end of the year. Taxes remained at 25 mills with the new spending plan. Councilman Theodore H. Breuer, finance chairman, made the motion to approve it and received unanimous support from his colleagues in attendance - President William Beattie, Vice President Hirem J. Little, Donald Podwika, Kenneth L. Neil and Armand A. Balsano. Councilman Joe Blanda was absent.

■ The Monessen Veterans Council was marking time for its fourth annual banquet. Frederic Feldman was president of the organization, and unit commanders were Mike Stefansky, Allison-Lescanac Post 1190 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; Robert Crawley, Joseph H. Ford Post 691 of The American Legion, and Charles Beaumariage, Thomas McKee Post 28 of The American Legion. Others on the planning committee were Mickey E. Janicki, treasurer, and Chuck Gee, secretary of the council. Auxiliary presidents were Gerry Elyanich, Post 28; LaVonne Farmer, Post 691, and Barbara Rade, Post 1190.

■ The Washington County Magisterial Association held its first meeting of the year at the courthouse in Washington. Matthew Cowell Jr., of Charleroi, was elected president. Other members were Steve Morgo, of Ellsworth; Daryl Zeaman, of California; Joseph Reichel, of Finleyville; Norbert Lesniakowski, of Canonsburg; Henry Mavrich, of Strabane Township, and Tony Barkus, of McDonald.

Sports Action

Basketball and football dominated the news on *The Independent's* sports pages. To wit:

■ Bob Hodgson, an assistant the past 12 years, was elected by the Charleroi Area School Board to succeed R. James R. Currie as head football coach at Charleroi Area High School. Currie had announced plans to retire and Hodgson was one of five candidates to fill the impending vacancy. Hodgson was a starting halfback and cornerback on the Currie-coached 1959 Cougar team that won the WPIAL Class AA championship. In getting the nod as the new CAHS mentor, he became the third current Big 10 Conference head coach to have played for Currie. The others were Bob King of Elizabeth Forward, and Jeff Petrucci, of Belle Vernon Area.

■ Kevin Schaum, a Charleroi Area High School and California State College graduate, was named women's varsity softball coach at Wayne (Michigan) High School. He had served as junior high mentor the past five years.

■ Belle Vernon Area was ready for its WPIAL Class AAA semifinal test against New Castle in the playoffs at the Civic Arena in Pittsburgh. Guided by head coach Don Asmonga and his assistant, George Estok, the Leopards won the Section 3 championship. The squad was comprised of Bill Contza, Tom Parks, Randy Giannini, Greg Grimm, John Russell, Joe Tordy, Mike Breza, Rich Zuraw, Daoug Indoff, Walter Diethorn, Guy Bizzelle, Don Wassilchalk, Mark McManus and Dave Hoffman.

■ Ron Monack scored 14 points and Paul Newmeyer, Bill Fowkes and Tom Braunegg each had 12 as unbeaten St. Jerome's, of Charleroi, defeated Charleroi Lutheran Methodist in the Mon Valley YMCA Basketball League's Senior Division. Vaughn Smith looked best for the losers with 17 points. Other high scorers in Senior Division action were Francis Duda, 24; John Manderino, 22; Vince Jarabeck, 22; Mark Beeman, 19; Dave Burrows, 18; Butch Pacy, 14; Rich Wozniak, 13; Scott Burns, 12; John Broggi, and Jim Sepesky, 10.

■ Eric Lindberg, a 6-8 sophomore, capped an outstanding season at Allegheny College by garnering Presidents Athletic Conference first-team basketball honors. Lindberg, a Ringgold High School graduate, led the PAC in rebounding with an average of 12 per game.

■ The popular Page 1 feature, Scene This Morning, called attention to this clever sign behind the counter at a Charleroi dry cleaning establishment: "Even doctors like the way we operate."

Seeking An Answer

Several people have asked about a night club that was located on Route 51, not far from the entrance to the Rostraver Gardens, in the 1960s or 70s. Some say a service station is now located at that site. We would appreciate information about the name of the club and its owners

(If you have memories to share or a story idea, contact Ron Paglia at ronpaglia@verizon.net or c/o The Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062.)

I Made A Mistake And Now My Company's Left With ~~31~~ 17 Furnaces That Need To Be Sold Within 6 Weeks

Normally I've been fairly conservative when I place winter orders for furnaces, but I guess this year I got a little too aggressive. However, I had two good reasons. The end of last year was extremely busy compared to our previous year and I knew the newest furnaces would save even more energy than the ones from the previous year. So, now it has turned out that I ordered more than we needed.

In some industries, this wouldn't be any big deal, but the heating industry is different. You see, this is a very seasonal business. The odds are that if the 17 systems in our inventory don't sell within the next 6 weeks, I'll be left carrying many of them until Fall of 2008...So, here's what we have decided to do in hopes of selling all of these units.

If you purchase one of these 17 units, we will do either one of two things for you; we will give you a 21% discount off the price of one of these furnaces or if you would like a new air conditioner for this summer, we'll sell you the furnace for $887 when you buy the air conditioner along with the furnace (this option is your biggest money saver).

If you are interested in taking advantage of this offer on one of the 17 systems, you can call **JED Heating and Cooling** at **724-379-9220** and schedule your free, no obligation survey. Just ask for Gloria and she will schedule a time for Jim to come to your home.

My mistake has created a fantastic opportunity for anyone interested in either an air conditioner or a heater. Just think, you can save all this money but still enjoy the benefits of reducing your utility cost and eliminating all your repair bills, plus you can finance your system with no money down...Please don't forget, this opportunity is only available to 17 homeowners. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jim Delattre, President

P.S. Six months from now, this will probably be the most appreciated offer ever extended to homeowners in the Mon Valley. Every one of the owners will have an almost unfair advantage over their utility companies.

P.P.S. Here's An Extra Gift For Calling
Even if you decide not to buy one of these systems, just for having us come to your home for a Free No-obligation Survey, you'll get a free special gift worth $82.

JED HEATING & COOLING SAYS...
COMFORT TODAY IS LESS THAN AN HOUR AWAY

JED Heating And Cooling, Inc.
COMFORT TODAY IS LESS THAN AN HOUR AWAY
724-379-9220

$2,900 FURNACE FOR $877
It's The Best Deal You Can Find!
CALL TODAY
724-379-9220

FAT POCKETS
Friday, February 29th
9pm - 1
Budweiser proudly presents
ABBY & JUNIOR
Formerly of the Povertyneck Hillbillies
20 OZ. BUDWEISER DRAFT $1.50
Doors open 8pm
COVER CHARGE $7
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We come when we said we would.
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RECORDS

William F. Buckley Jr. dead at 82

He was known as erudite author and conservative herald.

NEW YORK (AP) — William F. Buckley Jr. died at work, in his study. The Cold War had ended long before. A Republican was in the White House. The word "liberal" had been shunned like an ill-mannered guest.

Buckley

At the end of his 82 years, much of that time spent stoking and riding a right-wing wave as an erudite commentator and conservative herald, all of Buckley's dreams seemingly had come true.

"He founded a magazine, wrote over 50 books, influenced the course of political history, had a son, had two grandchildren and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean three times," said his son, novelist Christopher Buckley. "He really didn't leave any stone unturned."

Buckley was found dead in his study Wednesday morning in Stamford, Conn. His son noted Buckley had died "with his boots on, after a lifetime of riding pretty tall in the saddle."

His assistant said Buckley was found by his cook. The cause of death was unknown, but he had been ill with emphysema, she said.

As an editor, columnist, novelist, debater and host of the TV talk show "Firing Line," Buckley worked at a daunting pace, taking as little as 20 minutes to write a column for his magazine, National Review.

Yet on the platform, he was all handsome, reptilian languor, flexing his imposing vocabulary ever so slowly, accenting each point with an arched brow or rolling tongue and savoring an opponent's discomfort with wide-eyed glee.

"There's no 'weltschmerz,' or any sadness that permeates my vision," he told The Associated Press during a 2004 interview at his Park Avenue duplex. "There isn't anything I reasonably hoped for that wasn't achieved."

Buckley's wife, the former Patricia Alden Austin Taylor, died in 2007 at age 80. Christopher is their only child. Buckley is also survived by two brothers and three sisters.

Police still looking for dog food thiefs

The theft of a trailer containing 38,000 pounds of dog food worth $58,000 from a Sewickley Township parking lot last week was caught on tape, but state police are still searching for the thieves.

The trailer was stolen on Feb. 17 while it was parked at Gary's Truck and Trailer Repair on Waltz Mill Road.

Trooper Jeanne Martin said the trailer is owned by Pleasant Trucking Inc. of Connellsville and was scheduled to be delivered to a grocery store in Pittsburgh.

Still photos show a dark-blue truck cab with a light-blue design on the side and chrome stacks in the lot without a trailer attached, then it is seen leaving the lot with the stolen trailer.

Anyone with information about the heist is asked to call state police at (724) 832-3288.

DEATH NOTICES

GORDON — Anna Mae (Merichko) Gordon, of Bentleyville, on Wednesday, Feb. 27. Thompson-Marodi Funeral Home Inc., Bentleyville.

GREENWOOD — James W. Greenwood, 89, of West Newton, formerly of Rostraver Township, on Wednesday, Feb. 27. James C. Stump Funeral Home Inc., Sweeney Plan/Rostraver Township.*

LARICCIA — Joseph V. Lariccia, of Monessen, on Tuesday, Feb. 26. Rhome Funeral Home Inc., Monessen.*

RIDGE — Perry Roy Ridge, 65, of Daisytown, on Wednesday, Feb. 27. Greenlee Funeral Home, Beallsville.

STERNER — Floyd E. Sterner, 88, of Stockdale, on Tuesday, Feb. 26. J. William McCauley Jr. Funeral Home Inc., West Newton.*

PREVIOUS DEATHS:
BUTERA, Salvatore*
KONSTANTINIDES, H. Mark*
PASKO, Julia*
*** See death notice**

Salvatore Butera
Charleroi

Salvatore "Sam" Butera, 90, of Charleroi, died Tuesday, February 26, 2008, in his home. He was born July 8, 1917, in Charleroi, a son of the late Joseph and Josephine Arcadipane Butera. He was a member of Mary, Mother of the Church Parish of Charleroi, VFW Post No. 167, American Legion Post No. 22 and Elks Lodge No. 494, all of Charleroi. Sam was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, serving in the Finance Corps. He was retired as the owner of the Maples Restaurant in Charleroi. Surviving is one son, Joseph Butera, of Charleroi; two sisters, Rose Butera, of Charleroi, and Mary Barkey, of Monongahela; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Pauline Bosetti Butera; and two brothers, Joseph D. and Leonard Butera. Friends will be received in the CARL J. SPALLINO FUNERAL HOME, 819 Fallowfield Ave., Charleroi, on Thursday, February 28, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday, February 29, at 10:30 a.m. in Mary, Mother of the Church with the Rev. Patrick Barkey, Mr. Butera's nephew, officiating. Interment will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Carroll Township.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

James W. Greenwood
West Newton

James W. Greenwood, 89, of West Newton, formerly of Rostraver Township, died Wednesday, February 27, 2008, in Hempfield Manor, Greensburg. Born in Rostraver Township (Fellsburg) on December 10, 1918, he was the son of the late Earle and Flora Moore Greenwood. Jim was retired from Chubb Insurance Company as a salesman; prior to that, he worked for 21 years on the Donora Southern Railroad. He was a member of Fells United Methodist Church in Rostraver Township, the Rostraver AARP and the Hoboes of America Tank No. 19 of Herminie. Jim was a founding member of Rostraver Emergency Medical Services and served as an ambulance driver for over 20 years. He served in the First Infantry Division of the U. S. Army during World War II in the European Theater and was the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Marion "Dollie" Seiple Greenwood; one daughter, Carolyn "C.J." Allen, of Rostraver Township; two grandchildren, Jan Byers and husband, Chuckie, and Jed Allen; two great-granddaughters, Shannon and Abigayle Byers; one brother, Ben Greenwood, of Rostraver Township; one sister, Jay "Juanita" Harvey, of Boca Raton, Fla.; and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Melvin, John "Wally" and Jesse "Cliff" Greenwood; and six sisters, Ada Sands, Ruth Hamilton, Lois Greenwood, Harriet Sleith and infant sisters, Edith and Margaret Greenwood, who died in infancy. Friends will be received Friday, February 29, from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. in the JAMES C. STUMP FUNERAL HOME INC., 580 Circle Drive, Belle Vernon/Rostraver Township (724-929-7934), www.jamesstumpfuneralhome.com, where a funeral service will be held Saturday, March 1, at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Scott Berkley officiating. Interment will follow in Mon Valley Memorial Park, Carroll Township.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

H. Mark Konstantinides
Monessen

Visitation for H. Mark Konstantinides, 58, of Monessen, who passed away Saturday, February 16, 2008, while vacationing in Florida, will be held at the RHOME FUNERAL HOME INC., a Golden Rule Funeral Home, 1209 Grand Blvd., Monessen, on Friday, February 29, from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 1, from 10 a.m. to noon, at which time a Memorial Service will be held in the funeral home chapel with Fr. Demetrios Gardikes officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made in Mr. Konstantinides' name to the American Heart Association.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Joseph V. Lariccia
Monessen

Joseph V. Lariccia, of Monessen, passed away on Tuesday, February 26, 2008, at Mon Valley Hospital. He will be dearly missed by Sarah, his wife of nearly 62 years. He is also survived by their two daughters, Carol Britton and husband, Jim, of Belle Vernon, and Valerie Swann and husband, Bob, of Monessen; three granddaughters, Erin (Britton) and husband, Paul Torrens, of Norwalk, Conn., Lesley Britton, of Pittsburgh, and Carly Swann and fiance, Eujone Kim, of Texas. He is survived by several nieces and nephews as well. His family will receive friends at the RHOME FUNERAL HOME INC. in Monessen on Thursday from 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 p.m. After the funeral on Friday at 1 p.m., he will be interred in West Newton Cemetery. Donations may be made in his memory, in lieu of flowers, to: Disabled American Veterans, c/o James Cain, 102 Luce Ave., Monessen, Pa. 15062.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Julia Pasko
Belle Vernon

Julia Pasko, 88, of Belle Vernon, formerly of Fallowfield Township, passed away Tuesday, February 26, 2008, in Jefferson Regional Medical Center, Jefferson Hills Borough, following a lengthy illness. Mrs. Pasko was born in Donora on February 25, 1920, a daughter of the late John and Helen Witlinski Sewak. Julia lived most of her life in Fallowfield Township and was a very active member of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Donora, where she was a member of the choir and the "R" Club. Prior to her retirement, Julia was a hairdresser for 60 years, and she also worked several years for the State of Pennsylvania. In 1942 she married John Pasko, who preceded her in death on March 4, 1970. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Jon Pasko; two sisters, Ann Drake and Helen Paige; one brother, Peter Sewak; and one nephew, Jack Paige. Survivors include three daughters, Tamara (Frank) Chacko, of Washington, Pa., Rebecca (Mike) Horan, of Elizabeth, and Janine (William) Shepler, of Belle Vernon, with whom she made her home; four grandchildren, Billy (Jodi Duda) Petyak of Ohio, Michael (Cindy) Horan, of Lancaster, Amanda (Kent) Petry, of Pittsburgh, and Erika (Dave Barrett) Horan, of Waynesburg; three great-grandchildren, Logan Jester, and Andrew and Connor Horan; one brother, Dr. John Sewak, of the state of California; and nieces and nephews. Friends will be received Thursday, February 28, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. in the ANTHONY L. MASSAFRA FUNERAL HOME, 40 Second St. Ext., Donora (724-379-6900), where a brief service will be held Friday, February 29, at 9:30 a.m., followed by funeral services in St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Donora, at 10 a.m. with the Very Rev. Igor R. Soroka officiating. Interment will follow in Mon Valley Memorial Park, Donora. A Parastas service will be held in the funeral home on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Floyd E. Sterner
Stockdale

Floyd E. Sterner, 88, of Stockdale, died Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008, in Monongahela Valley Hospital, Carroll Township. He was born March 22, 1919, in West Newton, a son of the late Charles and Margaret (Shaw) Sterner. For 38 years, he had been employed as a crane man by Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel in Monessen. He was a Army veteran for more than 4 1/2 years during World War II, serving in the Pacific Theater with the 35 Infantry. He was stationed at many battle sites during his active duty including the Philippines and Guadal Canal. He was a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Organization. Floyd also enjoyed being active with the California University Swim Club. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Beth V. (Staib) Sterner; three children, Ken Sterner and his wife, Eleanor, of Gilford, N.H., Ralph Sterner and his wife, Joan, of Murrysville, and Ruth Woncheck and her husband, Sam, of Fallowfield Township; three grandchildren, Jason Sterner, Keith Woncheck and Megan Loft and her husband, Bryan; and two great-grandchildren, Willow and Rowan Lott. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three sisters, Thelma Celapino, Gladys Koget and Marjorie McMichael; and three brothers, Alfred, Charles and Earl Sterner. Friends will be received from 10:30 a.m. until time of services at noon Saturdy in the J. WILLIAM McCAULEY FUNERAL HOME INC., 901 Vine St., West Newton, with Dr. Glen F. Richardson officiating. Interment with full military honors will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Monongahela. Please visit www.mccauleyffineralhome.com.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

POLICE LOG

North Belle Vernon

■ Police are looking for a man who robbed the Sunoco gas station on Fayette Street Wednesday morning.

Chief James Bedsworth said a man entered the store at about 2:18 a.m. and demanded money from the clerk after he claimed an object he jammed into the employee's back was a gun.

Bedsworth said the robber ordered the clerk to the ground and a scuffle took place after the clerk refused.

The robber ran from the store with $187 and drove away in a vehicle parked nearby.

Bedsworth described the suspect as a black man, 6 feet 1 inch tall, weighing from 180 to 195 pounds with a light black beard who was wearing black and blue baggy jeans, a brown colored hooded sweatshirt and had a black tassel cap pulled over his eyes.

Bedsworth said the man is visible on the store's video surveillance tape but he is not known to police.

The chief said the video shows the object the man claimed was a gun was actually a flashlight.

Anyone with information can call police at (724) 929-7011.

California

■ Akeya J. Kirby, 20, of Pittsburgh, was cited for underage drinking 11:54 p.m. Wednesday on Third Street, police said.

Monongahela

■ Charles D. Clawson II, 21, of 501 Leggitt Ave., Forward Township, was charged with DUI, vehicle entering or crossing roadways, and general lighting requirements, 2:21 a.m. Feb. 3 on Fifth and West Main streets, police reported.

State police, Belle Vernon

■ John Waller III, of Fayette City, was charged with criminal mischief 2:30 p.m. Wednesday after he allegedly cut the spark plug wires to a vehicle owned by Beth Parker, of Sutersville, while it was parked on Fourth Street in Fayette City, police said.

Rostraver Township

■ Matthew E. Miller, 24, and Nikki L. Miller, 30, both of 315 Second St., Monessen, were charged in connection with an incident Aug. 6 involving a check cashed at PNC Bank, police said.

Matthew Miller was charged with criminal conspiracy to commit forgery and conspiracy to commit theft by deception and Nikki L. Miller was charged with forgery and theft by deception, according to police.

■ Sandra L. Sutton, 56, of 841 East Main St. Monongahela was charged with criminal trespass after an incident 8:40 p.m. Friday at Kmart, police said.

■ A 17-year-old Belle Vernon male was charged with retail theft of $5 in merchandise from Sheetz at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 21, police said.

■ Shayne M. Aiello, 20, of 317 Rolling Woods Drive, North Versailles, was charged with underage drinking after an incident 1:07 a.m. Sunday on Johnson Avenue in Pricedale, police said.

■ Cheryl L. Hayden, 52, of 223 Lenawee Ave., Monessen, was charged with retail theft of $36 in merchandise from Wal-Mart at 4:25 p.m. Feb. 21, police said.

■ Crystal M. Norris, 23, of 251 Thompson Ave., Donora and a 17-year-old Donora male were each charged with disorderly conduct after an incident 8:12 p.m. Jan. 27 at Eat 'n' Park, police said.

■ Shantay M. Burgess, 20, of 1742 South Ruby St., Philadelphia, was charged with retail theft of $54 in merchandise from Wal-Mart at 6:21 p.m. Feb. 21, police said.

■ A 17-year-old Monongahela male was charged with retail theft of $16 in merchandise from Wal-Mart at 2:05 p.m. Saturday, police said.

■ Kristopher W. Stark, 28, of 557 McKean Ave., Donora, was charged with disorderly conduct and driving with a suspended license after an incident 2:59 a.m. Friday in the Tri-County Plaza parking lot, police said.

Russell Robertson Sr.

We wish to thank our relatives, friends and neighbors for their many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy shown us during the death of our father, husband, grandfather & great-grand pap.
Also for the beautiful floral tributes, use of automobiles and for the mass offerings.

The Robertson Family

www.valleyindependent.com

In Memory Of
George M. Theys

In loving memory of our beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather & brother, George M. Theys, who passed away 2 years ago today, February 28, 2006.

We formed a mental picture of the one we loved so dear, he went to meet his Maker without a trace of fear. Sometime we hope to join him, what a meeting that will be when we are again united beyond life's sea of dreams.

Sadly missed by his family

CORRECTIONS/ CLARIFICATIONS

Competition correction

In an article published on page 8A Wednesday, Monessen Middle School student Thomas Lucy was not included in a list of students who recently won an architectural design competition.

Wecht (FROM PAGE THREE)

5:46 p.m. Wilson noted that it is impossible to tell how much time Young spent on this work.

"You worked 100 percent of the time out of the Allegheny County Coroner's Office," Wilson said.

"And my home," Young added.

Young earned $69,960 a year when she retired in 2005, following nearly 31 years with the county. She earned about $24,000 per year from Wecht for private case work.

The trial was expected to continue today before U.S. District Judge Arthur J. Schwab, with accountant Bryan Hinds testifying.

NEWS

TODAY IN HISTORY

FEBRUARY 28

Today is Thursday, Feb. 28, the 59th day of 2008. There are 307 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight

On Feb. 28, 1849, the California gold rush began in earnest as regular steamship service started bringing gold-seekers to San Francisco.

On this date:

■ In 1827, the first U.S. railroad chartered to carry passengers and freight, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Co., was incorporated by the state of Maryland.

■ In 1844, a 12-inch gun aboard the USS Princeton exploded, killing Secretary of State Abel P. Upshur, Navy Secretary Thomas W. Gilmer and several others.

■ In 1861, the Territory of Colorado was organized.

■ In 1951, the Senate committee headed by Estes Kefauver, D-Tenn., issued an interim report saying at least two major crime syndicates were operating in the U.S.

■ In 1953, scientists James D. Watson and Francis H.C. Crick announced they had discovered the double-helix structure of DNA, the molecule that contains the human genes.

■ In 1972, President Nixon and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai issued the Shanghai Communique at the conclusion of Nixon's historic visit to China.

■ In 1975, more than 40 people were killed in London's Underground when a subway train smashed into the end of a tunnel.

■ In 1986, Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme was shot to death in central Stockholm.

■ In 1993, a gun battle erupted at a compound near Waco, Texas, when Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents tried to serve warrants on the Branch Davidians; four agents and six Davidians were killed as a 51-day standoff began.

■ **Ten years ago**: In their weekly radio addresses, President Clinton and the Republicans sparred over education, with Clinton describing tests showing American high school students lagging behind those of other industrial nations as a "wake-up call" while the Republicans blamed the disappointing results on a "hungry bureaucracy in Washington" that gobbled up education funds.

■ **Five years ago**: NASA released video taken aboard Columbia that had miraculously survived the fiery destruction of the space shuttle with the loss of all seven astronauts; in the footage, four of the crew members can be seen doing routine chores and admiring the view outside the cockpit. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals stood by its ruling that reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools was unconstitutional because of the words "under God."

■ **One year ago**: A federal judge in Miami ruled that suspected al-Qaida operative Jose Padilla was competent to stand trial on terrorism support charges, rejecting arguments that he was severely damaged by 3 1/2 years of interrogation and isolation in a military brig.

Associated Press

Pramod Benjamin, a 30-year-old from a family of farmers in the south Indian state of Kerala, stands inside a Subway restaurant in Baghdad's Green Zone recently.

War's risks don't deter job seekers in Iraq

Many workers are drawn to the war zone for a chance at profit.

By BRADLEY BROOKS
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD — Help wanted: possibly life-threatening risks, little freedom outside work, long hours but competitive pay. Must be willing to relocate to Iraq.

For many around the world, that is the sound of opportunity knocking.

The war in Iraq — nearing the fifth anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion — has focused attention on some modern twists to life in the field, from soldier-bloggers to base coffee shops serving up lattes.

But few are as profound as the rise in military outsourcing.

While the spotlight shines brightest on the private security contractors and the fallout after the Blackwater Worldwide shootings last year, the true face of the war-as-work world is the legions of Iraqis and economic migrants from even poorer nations chasing a chance at a juicier payday.

The Associated Press toured the shops and eateries in Baghdad's fortified Green Zone for a closer look at Iraq's little documented international force: the workers drawn to the war for a chance at profit.

For instance, Pramod Benjamin, a 30-year-old from a family of farmers in the south Indian state of Kerala. He's been in the Green Zone for more than three years making sandwiches at a Subway restaurant.

"I'm happy and I want to stay. I need the money," he said recently as he piled meat on a foot-long bun for an American soldier.

Before he arrived, he made about $270 a month working in Kuwait for Subway. In Baghdad, he makes $900 — and, like most outside workers at U.S. facilities in Iraq, he pays nothing for living quarters and meals.

There are roughly 166,000 coalition troops in Iraq compared with the nearly 161,000 contract workers, according to Central Command.

A late 2007 census of contract workers conducted by U.S. Central Command said 30 percent of those — or 45,500 workers — are "third-country" nationals, meaning neither Iraqi or American. Iraqis make up 53 percent of the total while 17 percent are Americans.

"I'm here so I can make a better life for my family," said Miguel, a Peruvian manning a checkpoint in the Green Zone. "With the money I make here, I might be able to buy a house, maybe start a business back home."

Miguel, who only gave his first name for fear of being fired, makes $1,000 a month. In Peru, he said he would be making half that.

Their willingness to work in a war zone stands in contrast to a near mutiny last year by the U.S. diplomatic corps. The State Department nearly had to force diplomats on threat of dismissal to take posts in Iraq.

The pay may be relatively good, but the risks are real.

At least 1,123 contract workers have died in the nearly five years since the American-led invasion, according to a U.S. Labor Department fourth-quarter report for 2007. That compares with nearly 4,000 deaths among U.S. soldiers in Iraq.

The latest worker known killed was an American working for a New York-based consulting firm, SOS International. Jerome McCauley, 44, of Shawboro, N.C., died after being shot Jan. 31 on the road to Baghdad's airport, once considered the most dangerous stretch of asphalt on the planet, but relatively quiet of late.

Gates issues no threats in telling Turks they need to get out of Iraq

U.S. official says current offensive should be as short as possible.

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press Writer

ANKARA, Turkey — Defense Secretary Robert Gates said he told his Turkish counterpart today that Turkey should end its offensive against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq as soon as possible, but that the U.S. is making no threats against its NATO ally if it fails to comply.

"The United States believes the current offensive should be as short and precisely targeted as possible," Gates said after a meeting with Turkish Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul.

Gates said that a specific timetable for the Turks to stop their attack "did not come up during my meeting with the defense minister," but he said before flying to Turkey that withdrawal should come in a matter of days, or weeks, rather than months.

"The key is for us to make clear what our interests are, our concerns about the situation in Iraq," Gates said at a news conference with Gonul. "What is important is to serve both the interests of the United States and Turkey because I think we have shared interests.

"I think that those interests are probably not advanced by making threats or threatening to cut off intelligence," Gates added.

Gates delivered his message in a face-to-face meeting with Gonul in advance of meetings with other top Turkish officials, including the prime minister and president.

Gates said he told the defense minister that military action alone will not end the threat from the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, rebels that the Turks view as terrorists.

Gonul said the Turks have no intention of disturbing civilian areas of Iraq or occupying any portion of Iraq. He said the main goal is to destroy the PKK network in Iraq and render the organization unusable. He said he believes doing that would contribute both to the security in Iraq as well as stability in the region.

"Turkey's government should make clear to the Iraqi government and everyone concerned exactly what their intentions are and the limited goals and scope of their operations," Gates said.

THE WORLD BRIEFLY

29 militants killed in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — A militant ambush of an opium poppy eradication force sparked clashes that left 25 Taliban fighters and a police officer dead, a provincial police chief said today. Four other militants died when a bomb went off.

Insurgents ambushed the drug eradication force Wednesday in Marja district of Helmand province killing one police officer and wounding two, said Gen. Mohammad Hussein Andiwal, the provincial police chief.

Police attacked the militants afterward, killing 25 Taliban fighters, including a senior regional militant commander, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

Separately, four militants died and another was wounded today when the roadside bomb they were planting on a main road in Helmand exploded prematurely, Andiwal said. Militants regularly target Afghan and foreign troops with roadside bombs, though many civilians are killed by the blasts.

Thaksin returns to Thailand after exile

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Supporters danced, beat drums and sang as deposed Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra returned Thursday from 17 months in exile to face corruption charges, vowing to restore his reputation following his ouster in a coup.

The 58-year-old billionaire politician was quickly detained after his arrival at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport aboard a Thai Airways flight from Hong Kong. Thai authorities took him to court where he was ordered to post $267,000 in bail pending a hearing on March 12.

Thaksin was deposed in a September 2006 coup and had lived in exile, based in London. He had expected to face arrest after arriving on charges of graft and abuse of power during his 2001-2006 time in office.

His return was seen as a test of the country's political stability, with critics warning that the populist billionaire's homecoming could plunge the country into renewed crisis.

Blast demolishes house in Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP) — A pre-dawn explosion demolished a house in Pakistan's turbulent border zone today, killing up to 12 people, intelligence officials said.

The blast was reported in a village in South Waziristan, a region bordering Afghanistan where militants linked to al-Qaida and the Taliban operate. The cause of the explosion was not immediately clear.

One intelligence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak on the record, said about 10 foreign militants were believed killed.

Six others were wounded in the strike in the village of Kalosha, the official said, citing initial reports from informants in the area.

'PENNSYLVANIA CASH 5'

'Cash 5' jackpot at least $225,000

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Today's "Pennsylvania Cash 5" jackpot will be worth at least $225,000 because no player matched the five winning numbers drawn in Wednesday's game.

Lottery officials said 73 players matched four numbers and won $275.50 each; 3,303 players matched three numbers and won $10 each; and 41,591 players matched two numbers and won $1 each.

The Valley Independent LOTTERY RESULTS

PENNSYLVANIA DAILY NUMBERS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27

DAY PICK 3:	3-5-1
NIGHT PICK 3:	2-7-1
DAY PICK 4:	2-3-9-9
NIGHT PICK 4:	3-1-1-8
TREASURE HUNT:	6-17-19-22-28
CASH 5:	11-17-23-25-42
POWERBALL:	20-24-37-48-53
POWERBALL:	11 POWERPLAY: 5

OHIO DAILY NUMBERS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27

DAY PICK 3:	8-0-7
NIGHT PICK 3:	7-4-8
DAY PICK 4:	3-9-0-0
NIGHT PICK 4:	1-0-2-6
ROLLING CASH 5:	5-21-34-35-39
CLASSIC LOTTO:	10-25-36-37-40-48

WEST VIRGINIA DAILY NUMBERS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27

DAILY 3:	5-7-2
DAILY 4:	4-2-1-3
HOT LOTTO:	19-22-31-33-39 HB: 11

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7:30	400.00	8:45	250.00	10:00	400.00
7:45	250.00	9:00	400.00	10:15	250.00
8:00	400.00	9:15	250.00	10:30	400.00

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OUR OPINION

Do your part for Donora memorial

DONORA'S DOWNTOWN Committee needs your help.

Although the community's war memorial has been in existence for several years, the entire cost of the beautiful landmark has not been met.

The committee is still looking for people to come forward and help pay off the debt.

Individuals, businesses or organizations are being encouraged to purchase seven available benches that have yet to be paid for.

Chuck Muia, committee president, suggested a bench can be purchased and dedicated as a family memorial, or in the name of a business or organization.

The sturdy benches are made of marble and will last "forever," Muia emphasized.

The Downtown Committee spearheaded the fundraising effort for the tribute to area veterans and has invested about $400,000 in the landmark.

It is commendable that the group went ahead with construction of the site although the entire cost had not been met.

Now it's time for some local people to step up and help foot the bill.

It's a win-win situation.

Those who contribute will have the opportunity to create a lasting, public tribute to a loved one or an organization. At the same time, donors will be helping a worthwhile cause by memorializing the men and women who have fought so valiantly to protect our freedoms.

Anyone who is interested in helping out should contact the committee at (724) 379-7900.

We encourage you to do so.

Myron Cope was part of Pittsburgh

THE BORDERLESS Steeler Nation and especially Pittsburgh, its capital and holy city, are grieving the loss of a beloved and nationally acclaimed hometown journalist.

Myron Cope's unmistakable Pittsburgh voice and his impish broadcast persona will outlive us all.

So will his Terrible Towel and his renown as one of the most talented sportswriters to ever carry a notebook.

Indeed, Myron was an entertaining and lovable icon, a good civic man who gave generously to charities. But he will be missed most of all because he truly was one of a kind in a growing age of cookie-cutter sports commentators.

Like the late Pirates play-by-play man Bob Prince, Myron was made in Pittsburgh. Unabashedly a hometown fan, he parroted no one's ideas or sports cliches and copied no one's broadcasting style.

He was, for good and occasionally for bad, true only to himself.

Myron Cope is gone. Yoi. And double yoi.

Do you agree? Do you disagree? The Valley Independent wants to hear from you. E-mail us at valleyletters@tribweb. com or write a letter to the editor. Include your phone number to allow for verification. Please limit letters to 350 words. We reserve the right to edit.

How to reach us

The Valley Independent welcomes the input of our readers. Letters, e-mails and faxes must be signed and should include an address and daytime telephone number so the content of the message can be verified. (Phone numbers will not be published.)

Send your comments:

— By mail to Your Opinion, *The Valley Independent*, Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa. 15062.

— By e-mail to valleyletters@tribweb.com

— By fax to (724) 684-2603.

All messages are subject to editing for clarification, brevity and libel. Messages should be kept to 300 words. (No poetry, please.) While letters usually are published in order of submission, those concerning timely local issues are given priority.

McCain's winning strategy

Kathryn **LOPEZ**

The presidential race is sure looking like it will be Democratic Sen. Barack Obama versus Republican Sen. John McCain. Team Obama is no doubt overjoyed, having already run with the "yesterday versus the future" rhetoric that is typical for a fight between a charismatic 46-year-old and a 71-year-old Vietnam War veteran. But Team McCain, despite its outreach problems even among the GOP's base, needn't despair. Obama, a senator in only his third year, can be beaten. If only McCain would try.

Just days after Chris Matthews reported experiencing a thrill up his leg when Obama spoke, the "Hardball" host lambasted a Texas legislator who braved the MSNBC talking-heads show to do his part in support of Obama's campaign.

Matthews was merciless: "What has he accomplished, sir? You say you support him. Sir, you have to give me his accomplishments. You've supported him for president. You are on national television. Name his legislative accomplishments. Barack Obama. Sir."

The poor local pol's answer was instructive (and accurate): "Well, I'm not going to be able to name you specific items of legislative accomplishments."

Matthews pressed on: "Can you name any? Can you name anything he's accomplished as a congressman?"

The local pol: "No, I'm not going to be able to do that tonight."

Matthews: "Well, that is a problem isn't it?"

It sure is. McCain has both an authority that comes with real experience in Washington and a good-old-boy likeability to anyone who's not working with him (he's known for outbursts in the Senate), plus he doesn't have the high negatives his colleague Sen. Hillary Clinton suffers from, perhaps fatally. McCain can adopt the "ready from day one" meme the former first lady has unconvincingly and patronizingly used with Democratic primary voters. He can do it with a legitimacy Clinton never has had.

He needs to make the fullest possible use of this obvious advantage. He needs to embrace the fact that he doesn't have a naive belief that he can wave a magic wand and remove our troops from Iraq the day he is inaugurated. He's a responsible leader, so he knows that left-wing promises to "end the war in Iraq" are euphemisms for losing the war in Iraq. However, he who campaigned for his early primaries on a "No Surrender Tour" needs to go beyond what has been his saving grace with conservative voters -- the fact that he was the leading advocate of the "surge" policy that Gen. David Petraeus has successfully executed in Iraq, at a time when that position was very unpopular in Washington. As Congress went into the Presidents' Day recess, McCain missed a great opportunity to show he's willing to be a leader. When Congress faced a deadline to continue a post-9/11 reform that allows intelligence officials to monitor foreign terrorists overseas, Congress went on vacation without getting a bill to the president's desk. As the House defiantly and recklessly refused to act, McCain could have taken the opportunity to show leadership on the domestic front of this war against us, using the deadline as a clarifying moment in both the election and the war.

But he didn't.

After winning the Wisconsin primary the following week, McCain took aim at Obama. He declared: "I will fight every moment of every day in this campaign to make sure Americans are not deceived by an eloquent but empty call for change ... that promises no more than a holiday from history and a return to the false promises and failed policies of a tired philosophy that trusts in government more than the people. Our purpose is to keep this blessed country free, safe, prosperous and proud. And the changes we offer to the institutions and policies of government will reflect and rely upon the strength, industry, aspirations and decency of the people we serve."

For all his faults, Rudy Giuliani -- when it came to terrorist surveillance -- was clear and unrelenting. He talked like the prosecutor he once was, tracking down and convicting mobsters. Maybe McCain needs a talking to the next time Rudy does a campaign appearance for him. If McCain means what he says, he needs to fight the whole war. He can convince the nation he belongs in the White House, but he's going have to lead on security, both foreign and domestic, to do it.

Kathryn Lopez is the editor of National Review Online (www.nationalreview.com). She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.

Waste of time

YOUR OPINION

To the Editor:

On Feb. 20, my husband and I, along with many of our neighbors, attended a zoning meeting in Carroll Township.

We were under the impression that the meeting was to give us an explanation of what was to become of property to be bought for a bar and restaurant use. Not knowing all the procedures of the meeting or knowing who the owners would be, (they were in the audience, but not allowed to talk, we noticed the zoning officer gesturing to them not to do so).

The solicitor let people who had objections talk. As the meeting went on, the solicitor explained that he was being nice to let us talk, when the attorney for the owners objected to the peoples' asking questions.

I asked to speak. I said if this meeting was only about people purchasing the property, could we assume that we could than go to a meeting of the planning commission and hear both sides? We wanted to know their plans for the business.

We were told numerous times that the purpose of this meeting was only about purchasing the property and they don't know if we could go to a planning commission meeting later to ask our questions. Without knowing how their business is to be used, they may lose their business opportunity or we may be left with something we don't need in our neighborhood.

Why didn't our zoning officer, Mr. James Bierbower, explain the next step in the procedure to us? They owed some type of explanation to both sides. I don't think that they would have broken the law by saying to a group of people that you may get to ask your questions at a later date rather than make us look as if we did not understand anything.

People feel that when signs are put up and letters are written that the meeting is public, it should be open for all comments not just for objections.

Will we have another opportunity to ask questions if the zoning commission approves the sale of the business? In my opinion, this meeting was just a waste of our time.

Maya Patch
Monongahela

A 'gold star' hospital

YOUR OPINION

To the Editor:

I had a wonderful experience at Mon Valley Hospital. On Feb. 15 I had my very first surgery. What a humbling experience for both my husband and I.

I was treated royally from the time I arrived in admissions until I was discharged. My occupational therapist and my escort were very happy.

My doctor, Dr. Scott Baron, did an exceptional job. My anesthesiologist, of course, was working with an A-1 specimen and I told him so. I can't speak of the operating room or the recovery room — no memory. All attending doctors were wonderful.

My room, 548, allowed my husband to spend the entire time with me. The friendly and very kind nurses and aides were the very best. My physical therapist was so fun loving. The cleaning staff, the food and the service were outstanding.

To Mon Valley Hospital and staff, I am here to say thank you all so very much for the tender loving care I received during my first surgery.

You are a "gold star" hospital in my eyes and I give all of you a big 10 on a scale of 1 to 10.

Faye Coxe
Belle Vernon

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MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH CONFIRMED

More powerful AbGONE™ pill clinically proven to promote pot belly loss

Starts working in 20 minutes

By John Whitehead,
Media Services

BioTech Research has announced that a new scientific double blind clinical study has shown that their famous AbGONE™ Extra Strength supplement produces significant weight and pot belly loss without added diet and exercise.

The test subjects in the study lost significant weight and reduced their pot belly without changing their diet or physical activity. People who were not exercising or dieting lost weight and pot belly as well as those who were exercising and dieting.

In addition, the study showed that AbGONE™ Extra Strength significantly increased calorie burning so that you lose weight faster or you can eat more food without gaining weight.

And, the study found that the all natural AbGONE™ Extra Strength pill produced weight loss safely.

AbGONE™ is the famous pill that was introduced to the market five years ago that provided weight loss and the loss of stubborn potbelly fat. It had enormous sales in drug stores across the nation. But, recently, the already remarkable AbGONE™ pill was improved and is now much better. This new pill is AbGONE™ Extra Strength. It works much faster than the old AbGONE™ pill. It starts working in 20 minutes. It also produces much more weight loss than the original AbGONE™ pill.

How does AbGONE™ Extra Strength work?

Whitakre stated, "We found in a number of research studies on laboratory animals, later confirmed in human studies, a substance called Conjugated Linoleic Acid (CLA). Studies of CLA suggest that CLA decreases body fat in three ways: 1.) CLA decreases body fat mass by decreasing the amount of fat that is stored after eating; 2.) CLA increases the rate of fat breakdown in fat cells; and 3.) CLA increases the rate of fat metabolism which decreases the total number of fat cells. You can think of CLA as a match that lights the fuse in fat. This fuse increases the metabolic rate of fat that can result in subsequent fat loss.

Studies have shown that you can reduce abdominal fat using CLA.[1] AbGONE™ contains a good dose of CLA.

There are also a number of other beneficial effects to CLA that help decrease the future storage of fat.

Whitakre also stated, "CLA interferes with an enzyme called lipoprotein lipase (LPL). LPL is an enzyme that helps store fat in the body.[2] So, by inhibiting this fat-storing enzyme LPL, CLA can help reduce the re-accumulation of fat.

CLA also helps the body use its existing fat for energy, thereby increasing fat oxidation and energy expenditure."

AbGONE™ Extra Strength also contains highly advanced all-natural ingredients. These are new ingredients which were not in the original formula.

Studies have shown that the new AbGONE™ Extra Strength ingredients increase the rate of fat metabolism, which reduces both surface and intestinal abdominal fat and helps inhibit future formation of these abdominal fats.[3,4,5] One of these new ingredients is a very high quality and potent extract of green tea. This extract is EGCG, which has been shown in clinical studies to dramatically and quickly increase calorie burning which helps to quickly reduce body fat.[4] These ingredients start working in 20 minutes to increase calorie burning, which is the first step to reducing the pot belly and reduce fat all over the body.

Whitakre stated, "The ingredients in AbGONE™ Extra Strength are more expensive and therefore AbGONE™ Extra Strength is more expensive than the original formula. AbGONE™ original formula sells for $39 and AbGONE™ Extra Strength sells for $49. But for your readers who wish to order AbGONE™ Extra Strength direct, we are offering them a discount if they order within 10 days."

Whitakre added, "The new AbGONE™ Extra Strength formula may not be right for everyone. The new thermogenic formula uses Green Tea Extract and Caffeine to boost your metabolism quickly. If you are easily affected by caffeinated drinks you will notice a difference from our original AbGONE™. However, the new formula will help you reduce your body fat. And remember it starts working in 20 minutes."

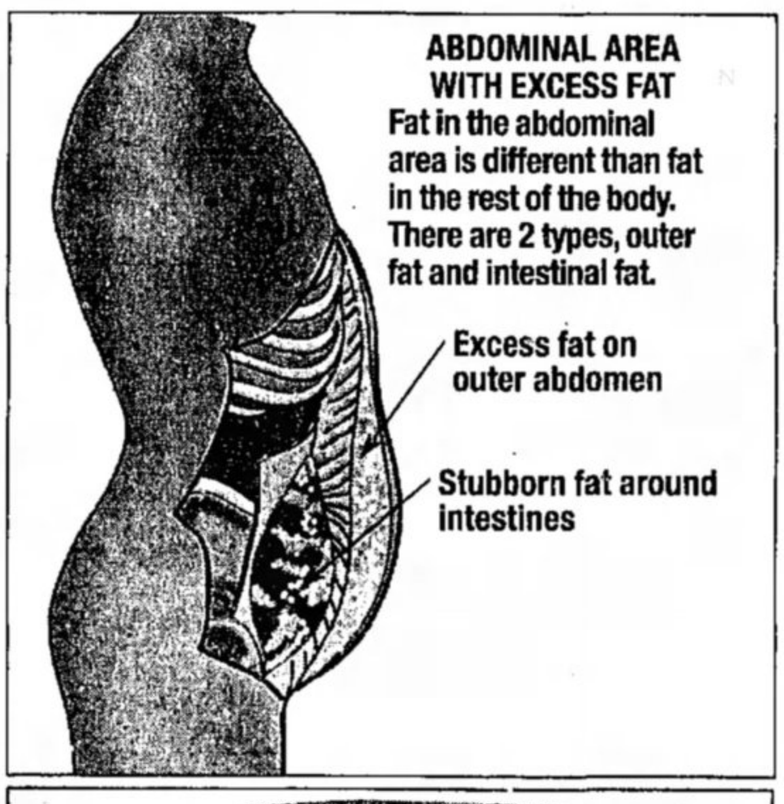
Today readers of this publication can get AbGONE™ Extra Strength at a major discount if they order in 10 days from the date of this publication. The price of a 30-day supply of AbGONE™ Extra Strength is $49 plus $3.95 shipping and handling for a total of $52.95.

But, for this 10-day sale, readers can get a $10 discount with free shipping and handling and pay only $39 delivered for AbGONE™ Extra Strength. For readers who want to obtain a 30-day supply of AbGONE™ Extra Strength at this 10-day sale price, please see the Special Reader's Discount Coupon on this page.

There is a strict limit of 3 bottles at this discount price -- no exceptions please. Those readers ordering after 10 days from the date of this publication must pay the regular price.

After 10 days we reserve the right to either accept or reject order requests at the discounted price.

AbGONE™ lead developer Rehan Jalali is a nationally recognized nutritionist and author who has appeared in *NEWSWEEK, Muscle & Fitness, Oxygen, Men's Fitness, Muscle Media* and many other magazines and scientific journals. He has developed over 100 cutting edge products for the nutritional supplement industry.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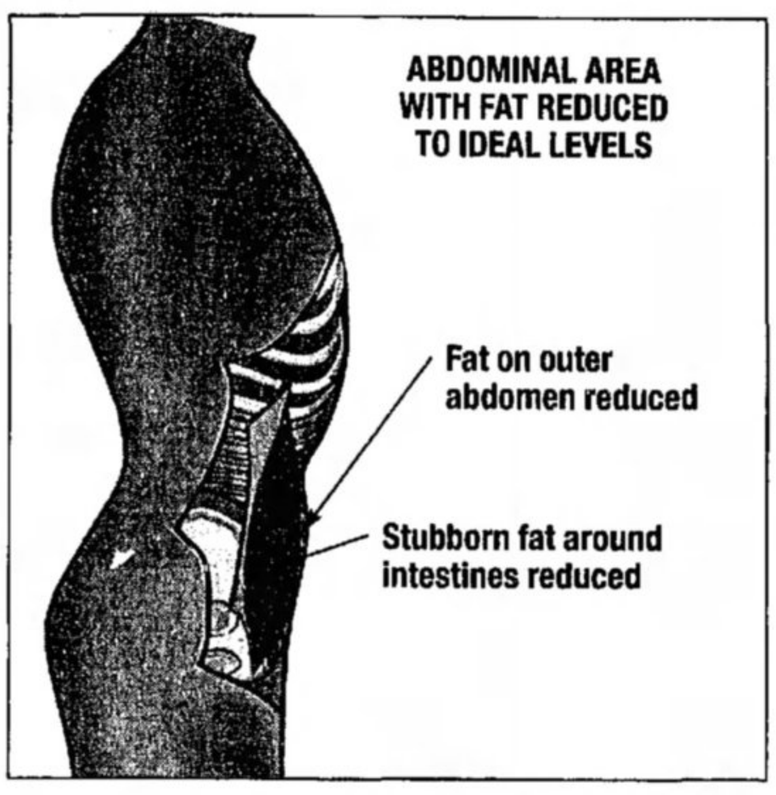
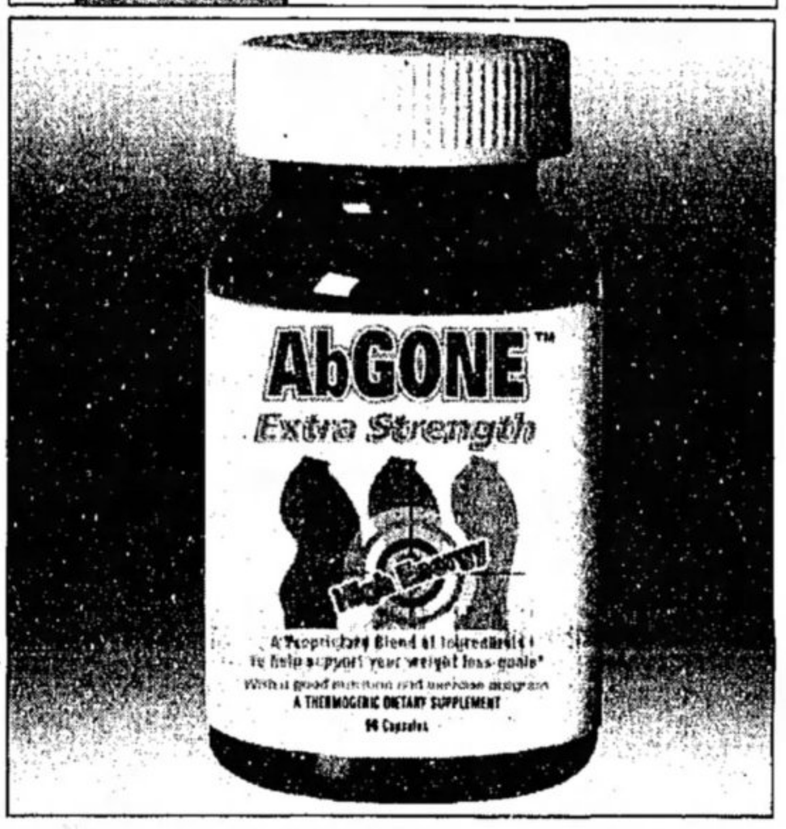




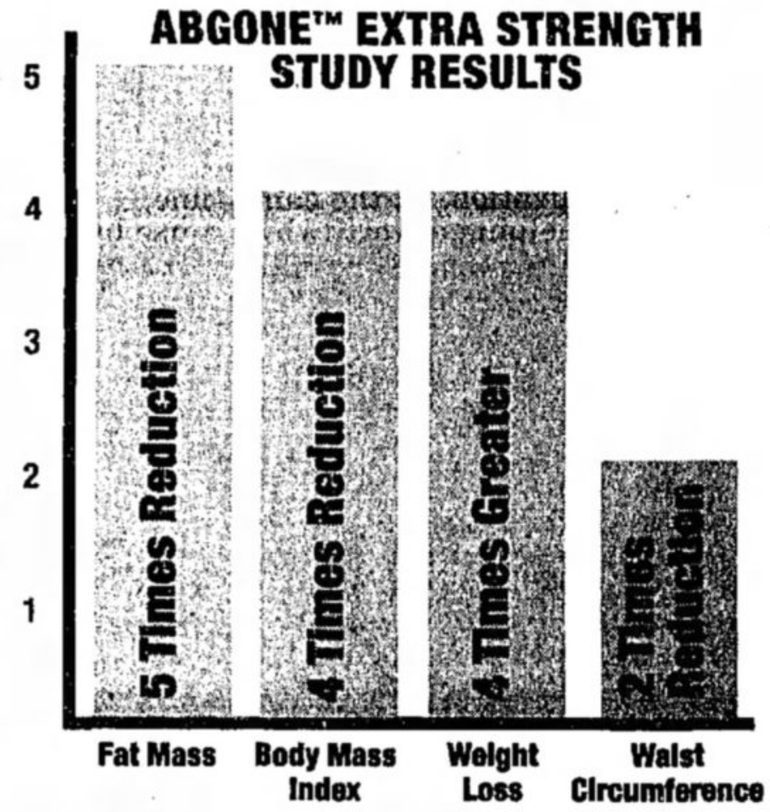
New AbGONE™ Extra Strength

My name is Christie Kuykendall. Thanks to AbGONE™ Extra Strength I was able to lose 10 pounds. AbGONE™ curbed my appetite and gave me more energy to work out.

I'm Johnnie Smith. I was on AbGONE™ Extra Strength for 30 days. I lost 21 pounds and lost 4 inches off my waist. Thank you.

Scientific Double Clinical Study AbGONE™ Extra Strength

Test subjects did not exercise or diet. Were given daily dosage of AbGONE™ Extra Strength or Placebo. AbGONE™ Extra Strength group experienced 5 times reduction in fat mass, 4 times reduction in BMI, 4 times greater weight loss and 2 times reduction in waist circumference. Also nearly a 50% decrease in calorie and carbohydrate intake suggesting appetite suppression.



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- To order online, www.biotechresearch.com
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This product carries a 60-day guarantee. If you are not totally satisfied, your purchase price will be refunded. No questions asked.

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[1] Int J. Obesity 2001 25:1129-1135
[2] LLP (Lipoprotein Lipase) reference Lipids, 1997 Aug 32(8):853-858
[3] AMJ Clin Nutl. 1989 Jan; 49(1):44-50
[4] AMJ Physol. 1995 Oct: (4pt1):E671-8
[5] Metabolism 2000 Jan: 49:101-7

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Charleroi Area stages 'Beauty and the Beast'

Freshman Candy Butala will portray Belle, the lead character in the popular Disney musical.

By CHRIS BUCKLEY
Staff Writer
cbuckley@tribweb.com

The future of musical productions at Charleroi Area High School is bright as evident by the youthful cast preparing for "Beauty and the Beast."

That future will be on display next week in a popular production known as much for the Oscar-winning film as it is for the famous Broadway production.

Jane Staranko, in her third year directing Charleroi Area musicals, said "Beauty and the Beast" was chosen because it is a favorite among students who grew up on Disney's animated version of the traditional fairy tale about a beautiful woman kept in a castle by a horrific monster.

Charleroi Area High School will stage "Beauty and the Beast" 7:30 p.m. March 7 and 8 and 2 p.m. March 9.

Staranko said Connellsville Area High School has loaned costumes to Charleroi Area, helping to keep costs in check.

Staranko noted that she has students with the talent to fit the parts.

The cast features a number of freshmen and sophomores.

The female lead role of Belle is being filled by freshman Candy Butala.

"She was picked because of the quality of her voice," Staranko said. "She embodies Belle."

Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Charleroi Area High School will present "Beauty and the Beast." Rehearsing, from left, are Stean Stiles (Lefou), Gavin Farkas (the Beast), Brian Bodnar (Gaston) and Candy Butala (Belle).

Gavin Farkas portrays the Beast. The senior, who plans to pursue a career in vocal music, has sung and played the piano in local venues. Farkas additionally has performed the national anthem at sporting events.

He has also been chosen to perform in Pennsylvania Music Education Association district and regional festivals.

"It's a treat to hear his voice," Staranko said.

Freshman Brian Bodnar plays Gaston, the character who unsuccessfully courts Belle.

"He has a beautiful, deep baritone voice for such a young man, and I'm sure he'll develop from year to year," Staranko said.

Sophomore Craig Downes portrays Belle's father, Maurice.

The enchanted objects, the students who portray them and their grades are:

Cogsworth (the clock) – Zach Shulock, ninth grade.

Mrs. Potts – Molly Malady, ninth grade.

Lumiere (the candlestick) – Aaron Piot, ninth grade.

Chip (the cup) – Chelsea Hardy, 11th grade.

Madame de la Grande (the wardrobe) – Briana Brickner, 11th grade.

Babette (the feather duster) – Llenelle Gibson.

Other performers include: Doormat, Jamie Granato; Salt, Mara Spina; Pepper, Heather Rialti; bookseller, Jeff Kearns; Young Prince, Kyle Shannon; enchantress, Chelsea Behanna; Lefou, Stefan Stiles; and Monsieu D'Arque, Jordan Santo.

The audience can also look forward to some special effects in the production, Staranko said.

Tickets are $7 for adults and $5 for students and senior citizens. Tickets will be on sale 3:30 to 5 p.m. March 3 and 5 and 6:30 to 8 p.m. March 4. Tickets will be available 90 minutes each day before curtain time. Tickets will be sold auditorium box office.

Frazier's 'Millie' stars tappers, 20s flappers

Director Joanne Cushman said the musical is rarely seen in the area.

By MARK HOFMANN
For The Valley Independent
mhoffman@tribweb.com

The Frazier Drama Club will present "Thoroughly Modern Millie," a different sort of musical with tap dancing and flashy costumes circa the 1920s.

The musical is set in New York City during the time of "moderns," or women who try their hand at catching husbands and starting successful careers.

"Thoroughly Modern Millie" will be staged 7 p.m. March 13, 14 and 15 in the high school auditorium.

"This is a musical that's not used a lot in this area," director Joanne Cushman said. "But it fits itself very well to the people involved."

Cushman said the cast comprises 35 students. Another five serve in the crew. The musical employs numerous sets and 27 songs.

Auditions began in January. Since then, the cast and crew has busy rehearsing – along with the orchestra pit, directed by Rod Staggers.

Senior Chelsea Gallo, in the lead role of Millie, is especially happy the musical consists of 17 tap-dance sequences that involve half the cast.

The 17-year-old has been tapping for 15 years. In fact, she helped teach some fellow cast members how to tap, including senior Scott Cycak, who's filling multiple roles. He admitted learning to tap dance was more difficult than he anticipated, but fun.

"Tapping's a blast," Cycak said.

Sophomore Elizabeth Lahew will portray Muzzy Van Hossmere. She enjoys both the tap dancing and music. Her character, a famous singer who has returned from a world tour, must hold a note for 24 beats during one song.

Junior Michael Kriss will play Trevor Graydon. He is excited about his part because it isn't as demanding as his last role – Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol." Kriss is looking forward to singing "Speed Test Song," which has him singing faster and faster as the song progresses.

"This is a breakaway from the other musicals we have done," Kriss said.

Senior Justine Fartini will portray Mrs. Meers, the villain.

"This is the most upbeat musical we've had for a while," Fartini said.

Senior Tristan Bartolomucci, in the role of Jimmy Smith, is excited that his character brings jazzy sounds to the musical.

Jenna Boyles not only will portray Miss Dorothy, but, along with the high school's art club, designed and painted and the backdrops.

"I'm a senior this year, and I wanted to do more things and go all out," Boyles said.

Tickets will be available at the door.

Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Frazier will present "Thoroughly Modern Millie." Rehearsing, standing, from left, are Chelsea Gallo, Tristan Bartolomacci, Michael Kriss, Jenna Boyles and Justine Fartini; and, seated, Elizabeth Layhew and Scott Cycak.

Jeff Pikulsky/The Valley Independent

Ian Cicco will portray Fagin in Belle Vernon Area's production of "Oliver!" Sarah Sewchek, left, and Kara Burkhart will share the role of Nancy.

BVA rolls out classic drama 'Oliver!'

Director Michael Rozell said it is not a traditional high school show.

By JEFF PIKULSKY
Staff Writer
jpikulsky@tribweb.com

ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP – Belle Vernon Area High School play director Michael Rozell said it was once again time to challenge his actors with another demanding spring musical.

Belle Vernon Area has built a reputation for top notch shows.

Rozell said that with this year's cast, he was able to produce the school's first-ever rendition of the classic drama "Oliver!"

"In fact, it's a show that most high schools don't do," he said.

The show will be staged 7:30 p.m. March 13 to 15 and 2:30 p.m. March 16.

In the Charles Dickens' classic novel, Oliver Twist runs away from an orphanage and befriends a group of pickpocket boys trained by an elderly mentor.

Rozell said the drama is something new for BVA.

"I wanted to do something different," he said. "The shows we have chosen in the past are kind of upbeat with lots of dancing. This is very dark. There are very funny moments in it, but it is a dramatic show."

Rozell said he was drawn to the show by its beautiful music.

He said some students will be double cast, playing lead roles some nights and joining the choral ensemble during others.

Rozell said double casting provides a more meaningful learning experience.

"They get to learn that the show is the important factor, not the individual," he said.

Sixty high school actors will be joined by 30 middle and elementary school students who will portray orphans and pickpockets. British accents will be employed throughout, Rozell said.

"Oftentimes you hear speaking accent, but when a song happens, there's no accent at all," he said. "I've been very particular about that."

The crew built smaller stages on each side of the main stage. Having the extra space will cut time between scenes, Rozell said.

A makeshift London Bridge was built in front of main stage that ends over top of the first row of seating. Actors will be as close as possible to the audience and at times will perform in the aisles.

"When I first announced that we were doing this show, it did not go over well because they were not familiar with it," he said. "But, after we've worked on it for several months, it seems that many of them are fond of it. I think many of them like the idea that they're presenting something that isn't often done at the high school level."

Senior Ian Cicco will fill the lead role of Fagin, the sinister mastermind directing the young pickpockets. Cicco, who has performed in several plays, said the role is one of his most challenging.

"This is my first year that we've done double casting, so it's a good experience to work with two different casts for me," he said.

Sarah Sewchek and Kara Burkhart will split the female lead, Nancy.

Both have acted in other Belle Vernon Area plays.

"I like how different our characters can be with making them our own," Sewcheck said of sharing the lead role.

Burkhart said she is excited to perform a story she has loved for years.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students. For tickets, call (724) 929-9800, ext. 583, or visit www.bvabroadway.com.

Pauline Keefer will sell tickets in the high school office lobby 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday and March 6 and 11 and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Wednesday and March 7, 12 and 14.

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Pitt tops Cincinnati

DeJuan Blair scored 18 points Wednesday as Pitt picked up its 20th win of the season. **3B**

Valley SPORTS

Lucky in Las Vegas

Jimmie Johnson is aiming for his fourth straight win at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. **2B**

Opening-day victory

It was only Manatee Community College, but new Pirates' manager John Russell liked how his team looked in its first spring training game. **3B**

Sports Trivia

Who are the two Pitt men's basketball players to be named Big East Player of the Year? **3B**

Last night's scores

Buffalo 8, Nashville 4
San Jose 4, Columbus 2
Minnesota 3, Tampa Bay 2
Toronto 4, Florida 3, SO
Chicago 1, Phoenix 0
Colorado 3, Vancouver 2, SO

Brian **HERMAN**

Defense, not offense, key for Arnold

Josh Arnold made a name for himself at Monessen High last year with his offense as the WPIAL's top scorer averaging 32 points.

If Arnold has any hopes of doing his thing in the major college ranks, he's going to have to do it with defense.

That's the word from Richard Moore, his coach at Massanutten Military Academy in Woodstock, Va.

"Right now Josh is a low Division I prospect," said Moore. "If he picks up his defense, he can go to a major college. His defense will determine how high he goes because most kids can score in college."

Arnold is averaging 10 points and four rebounds per game.

Those numbers, however, are a little deceiving since he averages only 17 minutes a game.

"I go with 11 to 12 players and my top guy plays 24 minutes," said Moore, whose club is 20-12.

"If I went with an eight-player rotation, we'd have a better record, but I'm not concerned with wins and losses," he said. "We have players for one year and the college coaches want to know if I have players."

According to Moore, Division I schools that have shown interest in the 6-4 former Greyhound star include Central Connecticut State University, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis (better known as IUPUI) and South Carolina State University.

The fifth-year Virginia program has played three of the country's top four prep schools: No. 1 Patterson School (N.C.), No. 2 Hargrave Military Academy (Va.) and No. 4 American Christian (Pa.).

■ To M.C., of Monessen: The Monessen High girls' 74-68 double overtime loss to Mt. Alvernia in the recent Class A title game was the second longest in WPIAL championship history.

Blackhawk edged West Mifflin, 81-78, in triple overtime for the Class AA crown in the longest game eight years ago.

■ After starting the season 21st on Notre Dame's all-time scoring list, Monessen's Charel Allen is now No. 9.

Allen scored 14 points in last night's 92-49 rout of South Florida to raise her career total to 1,451.

Allen needs 10 points to climb to eighth.

The 14th ranked Irish (22-6) need one win in their final two games (Saturday against Seton Hall) and Monday at St. John's) to clinch a first-round bye in the upcoming Big East championship.

■ And thanks to Tom Graney, of Monongahela, who says the person who can squeeze a dollar is usually the one who can stretch it!

'Dream' game Saturday

PSAC West leader Cal U will face No. 2 Edinboro in season finale.

By BRIAN HERMAN
Sports Editor
bherman@tribweb.com

CALIFORNIA — California University men's basketball coach Bill Brown's philosophy has always been to not look ahead.

He can do that today after his Vulcans (22-4, 11-0) clinched at least a piece of the PSAC West championship with a 68-54 victory over Slippery Rock Wednesday at Hamer Hall.

What Brown is looking ahead to is Saturday's 3 p.m. date in Erie against second-place Edinboro (21-5, 10-1) which closes the regular season.

"If you're the PSAC commissioner, it's a dream come true to have the top two teams going against each other," he said.

Hours after being ranked the East Region's No. 1 team for the first time this season, the Vulcans coasted to an easy victory in their annual Senior Night.

California never trailed after scoring the game's first six points and led by as many as 25 points (60-35) with eight minutes remaining.

Running its winning streak to 13, Cal had five players in double figures with Ron Banks and Ali Mbaye both scoring 13, Theron Colao 12, James Hairston 11 and Julian Logan 10.

"We share the wealth and try to get everyone involved," noted Brown.

Despite the win, Smith didn't like all that saw in the final 3:30 when his team was outscored 10-0.

"The effort was there but we weren't focused at the end of the game," he said. "And we shot too many threes."

Brown knows the upcoming trip to Edinboro will be a big test.

"Shot selection and defense will be the key," said Brown. "It will be Edinboro's Senior Day and we know they'll be fired up and ready to go.

"We're treating this as a tournament game. To be the best you have to play against the best competition. We're on a nice 13 in a row run, but always go a game at a time and won't change our attitude."

CAL CLIPS: Cal has a 15-game regular season winning streak in the PSAC West ... The Vulcans will host Clarion in a playoff game Tuesday ... Mbaye finished with a game-high nine rebounds ... Reserves Cory Someville (12) and Rashiid Coleman (11) looked best for the Rock (7-19, 4-7) ... Edinboro rallied from a 14-point second half deficit to win 79-76 at Clarion.

Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Cal U's James Hairston flies high for a dunk Wednesday.

Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Brooque Williams of Cal U passes the ball around Slippery Rock's Nikki Presto Wednesday.

Lady Vulcans 'growing up'

Cal earns piece of first place in PSAC West after beating Slippery Rock.

By BRIAN HERMAN
Sports Editor
bherman@tribweb.com

CALIFORNIA — Sometimes the longest losing streak in more than seven years can be a blessing in disguise.

Ask California University women's basketball coach Darcie Vincent following the Vulcans' 82-58 romp over Slippery Rock at Hamer Hall Wednesday.

"Three straight losses was our growing-up period," said Vincent, referring to close defeats to Indiana, Edinboro and Clarion to open Cal's February schedule.

The first two setbacks came at Hamer Hall, where the Vulcans had lost only three times in the previous six years. They dropped Cal into a tie for third place in the PSAC West with Shippensburg, two games behind highly touted Indiana in the crucial loss column.

Two weeks later, Cal (21-5, 8-3) shares first place with Indiana (23-4, 8-3), the East Region's No. 1 team, which lost at Shippensburg, 77-50.

While Indiana has lost two straight, Cal has won four in a row going into Saturday's regular-season finale at 1 p.m. at Edinboro.

Coming off a 71-69 victory at Indiana, Vincent was leery of facing her former team.

"I was afraid of this game because the Rock had nothing to lose," she said. "Historically, we start slow against them.'

That was the case again last night as the Vulcans were down 17-10 after 6:04 before cutting the deficit to 33-29 at halftime.

The second half, however, turned out to be all Cal.

The Vulcans went ahead to stay with five minutes gone in the second half when sophomore Brooque Williams and freshman Kayla Smith took over.

Williams (18) and Smith (11) combined for 29 points in the final 20 minutes to outscore the Rock (7-19, 1-10) as the Vulcans erupted for 53 points.

After shooting 78 percent (11 of

(See CAL U, Page 4B)

Cope was uniquely Pittsburgh

Colorful broadcaster best remembered for inventing Terrible Towel.

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — Myron Cope spoke in a language and with a voice never before heard in a broadcast booth, yet a loving Pittsburgh understood him perfectly during an unprecedented 35 years as a Steelers announcer.

The screechy-voiced Cope, a writer by trade and an announcer by accident whose colorful catch phrases and twirling Terrible Towel became nationally known symbols of the Steelers, died Wednesday at age 79.

Cope died at a nursing home in Mount Lebanon, a Pittsburgh suburb, said Joe Gordon, a former Steelers executive and a longtime friend of Cope's. Cope had been treated for respiratory problems and heart failure in recent months.

Cope's tenure from 1970-2004 as the color analyst on the Steelers' radio network is the longest in NFL history for a broadcaster with a single team and led to his induction into the National Radio Hall of Fame in 2005.

"His memorable voice and unique broadcasting style became synonymous with Steelers football," team president Art Rooney II said Wednesday. "They say imitation is the greatest form of flattery, and no Pittsburgh broadcaster was impersonated more than Myron."

One of Pittsburgh's most colorful and recognizable personalities, Cope was best known beyond the city's three rivers for the yellow cloth twirled by fans as a good luck charm at Steelers games since the mid-1970s.

The Terrible Towel is arguably the best-known fan symbol of any major pro sports team, has raised millions of dollars for charity and is displayed at the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Upon Cope's retirement in 2005, team chairman Dan Rooney said, "You were really part of it. You were part of the team. The Terrible Towel many times got us over the goal line."

Even after retiring, Cope — a sports talk show host for 23 years — continued to appear in numerous radio, TV and print ads, emblematic of a local popularity that sometimes surpassed that of the stars he covered.

Team officials marveled how Cope received more attention than the players or coaches when the Steelers checked into hotels, accompanied by crowds of fans so large that security guards were needed in every city.

"It is a very sad day, but Myron lived every day to make people happy, to use his great sense of humor to dissect the various issues of the sporting world. ... He's a legend," former Steelers Pro Bowl linebacker Andy Russell said.

Cope didn't become a football announcer until age 40, spending the first half of his professional career as a sports writer. He was hired by the Steelers in 1970, several years after he began doing TV sports commentary on the whim of WTAE-TV program director Don Shafer, mostly to help increase attention and attendance as the Steelers moved into Three Rivers Stadium.

Myron Cope

Coincidentally, a pair of rookies — Cope and a quarterback named Terry Bradshaw — made their Steelers debuts during the team's first regular season game at Three Rivers on Sept. 20, 1970.

Neither Steelers owner Art Rooney nor Cope had any idea how much impact he would have on the franchise. Within two years of his hiring, Pittsburgh would begin a string of home sellouts that continues to this day, a stretch that includes five Super Bowl titles.

(See COPE, Page 4B)

That's Racin'

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"We are going to have a great year. That monkey isn't going to ride as high as he did on our backs last season."

— Team owner Jack Roush, after Carl Edwards' victory in the 2008 Auto Club 500.

Go online and check out www.thatsracin.com for the latest information and news on stock-car racing, updated daily.

Four of a kind?

Jimmie Johnson aims to win a fourth consecutive race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway

By Jim Utter
McClatchy Newspapers

After Jimmie Johnson had won the Sprint Cup Series race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway two years in a row, they changed the track.

What did Johnson do? He won again.

Now, they've changed the car. Can Johnson once again hit the jackpot?

If preseason testing is any indication, Johnson should be in prime position to earn his fourth consecutive victory in Sunday's UAW-Dodge 400. It also doesn't hurt he rebounded nicely from a wreck in the season-opening Daytona 500 with a second-place finish in Monday's rain-delayed race in Fontana, Calif.

"At the Vegas test, you could really attack with the car. It seemed like the track was getting a middle lane, if not an outside lane. So, as we get into that weekend and all that activity on track, I hope that the track really widens out," said Johnson.

"I think it's going to be a better show for us to put on because we can really be aggressive with the cars. At California, there's not a lot of banking to tiptoe around, but at Vegas you can really charge."

It hasn't always been that way.

When Johnson took wins on the 1.5-mile track in 2005 and 2006, Las Vegas was a mostly wide and flat oval that often times would produce single-file racing.

Track owner Bruton Smith made drastic changes before last season's race, incorporating graduated banking to the track and remodeling the entire infield area.

Johnson's No. 48 Hendrick Motorsports team, faced with the new layout, came up with the same result, winning his third consecutive race at the glitzy venue.

Now, NASCAR has changed the rules, as Sunday's race will mark the first for the series' new "Car of Tomorrow" design on a 1.5-mile track, the most common type of track found on the 36-race schedule.

Since Johnson won five of the 16 races utilizing the new car design on his way to his second consecutive series championship last season, he and his team believe they will be in good shape.

"We feel really good about the year. I think as a whole, the company is carrying a lot of momentum. But we know it's a new year and we know during the off-season teams were working hard to get their cars right," Johnson said.

"We saw Roush really coming on strong at the end of the year. I would be foolish to pound on my chest and say we're going to continue where we left off because I really think the competition is closing (in).

"I think that guys have been pretty motivated over the off-season to get their cars better."

Edwards

Already the results of that work have been seen, as Carl Edwards won Monday's race in Fontana, the third for Roush Fenway Racing in the new car design.

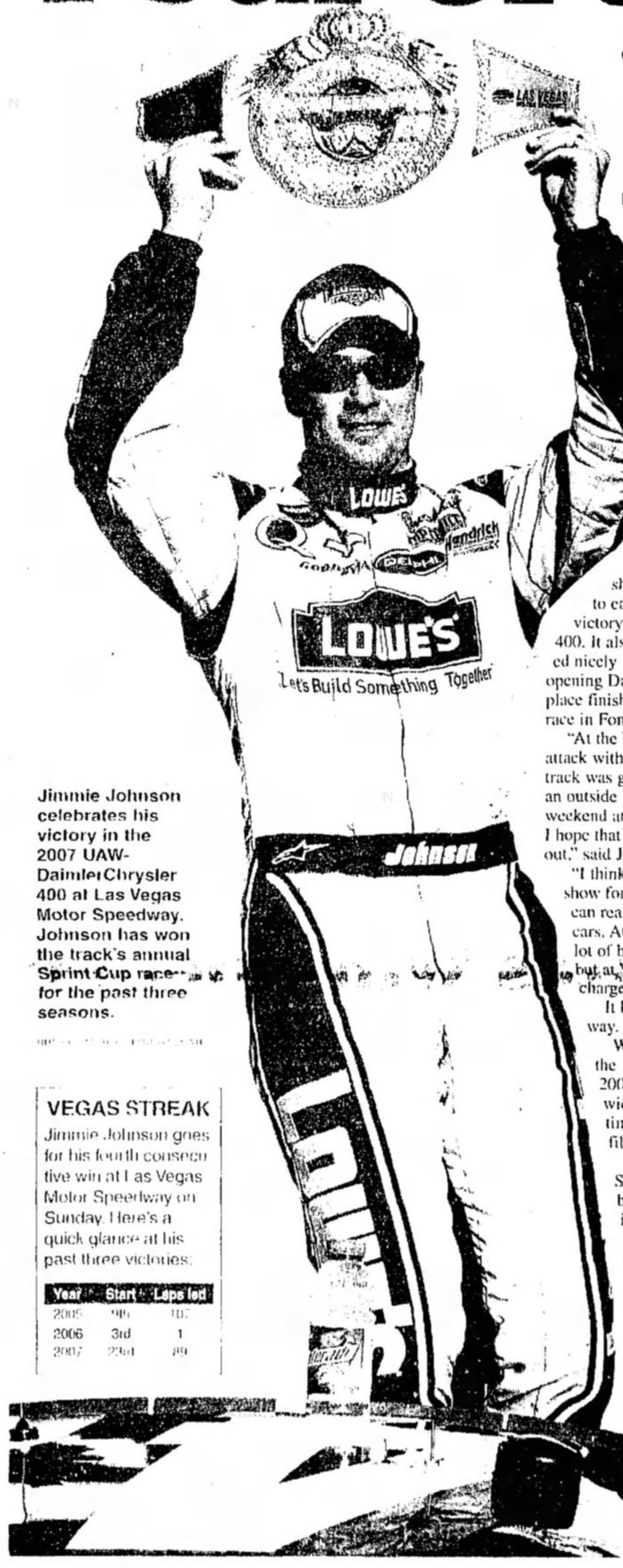
Johnson even foresaw as much earlier this season following the conclusion of a two-day test at Las Vegas, where Edwards was particularly strong.

"Those Roush cars have been good, especially Carl. He's been real fast, not only for one lap but over the course of the run. He's been really impressive and I think the best car so far," Johnson said at the time.

The use of the new car on a recently redone track will present new challenges for Johnson's team as they attempt to continue their dominance in Sin City.

"It's still a race car on the track," he said. "The challenging thing for us is our hands are tied. There are only so many areas you can work (on). In the past, there were five ways to figure out how to make your car do whatever you needed it to do better.

"Now, with the aerodynamic rules we have — the common body — and the chassis the way it is, with the limited (spring) travel, we're all boxed in. When you're working on them every day and trying to find speed, that's the challenging part."



Jimmie Johnson celebrates his victory in the 2007 UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Johnson has won the track's annual Sprint Cup race for the past three seasons.

VEGAS STREAK

Jimmie Johnson goes for his fourth consecutive win at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on Sunday. Here's a quick glance at his past three victories:

Year	Start	Laps led
2005	9th	107
2006	3rd	1
2007	23rd	89

RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN' STOP PICKS

1. Kyle Busch (car No. 18): No Cup wins yet but he certainly has been the sport's most impressive driver. Last week: 2.

2. Ryan Newman (car No. 12): Backs up Daytona 500 victory and whirlwind week that followed with a 10th place finish. Last week: 1.

3. Carl Edwards (car No. 99): Put a pretty solid hurtin' on the field in winning the never-ending race at California. Last week: 9.

4. Tony Stewart (car No. 20): He's off to a pretty good start for a guy who traditionally is a pretty slow starter. Last week: 3.

5. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48): Oh, this team is now officially overdue to pick up its first victory of the season. Last week: 6.

6. Jeff Gordon (car No. 24): Gordon said his car blew up as the field got the caution on the final lap at California. Last week: 7.

7. Kurt Busch (car No. 2): Heads to his hometown this week where he and brother Kyle might be a good 1-2 bet. Last week: 4.

8. Matt Kenseth (car No. 17): Got down a lap early at California and still fought his way back for a top-five finish. Last week: 8.

9. Kevin Harvick (car No. 29): If he can rack up top-10 finishes on bigger tracks he might get healthy on short tracks. Last week: 13.

10. Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 88): Victim of circumstances at California, but he needs to have some better luck in Vegas. Last week: 5.

For the rest of the top-40 rankings, go online and visit www.thatsracin.com.

THIS WEEK'S RACE

UAW-DODGE 400

Where: Las Vegas Motor Speedway, a 1.5-mile banked, paved oval located in Las Vegas.
When: Sunday at 4:30 p.m. (all times ET). Qualifying is 6:40 p.m. Friday.
TV: Fox.
Radio: Performance Racing Network.
Purse: $6,459,779.
Last year's winner: Jimmie Johnson.
Worth mentioning:

Busch

Las Vegas Motor Speedway will host its first NASCAR Foundation Track Walk on Sunday prior to the start of the UAW-Dodge 400. The proceeds from the walk will benefit Speedway Children's Charities, the NASCAR Foundation and the Kyle Busch Foundation. All money raised by the Kyle Busch Foundation will be donated to Boys Town of Nevada.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Jimmie Johnson is back in Las Vegas, where he's won three straight. Will it be four of a kind on Sunday?

Cast your vote at: *www.thatsracin.com*

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

The International Race of Champions series has folded. Are you going to miss seeing those races?

Number of votes: 7,788

Response	No. of votes	Percent
Yes	3,783	50%
No	2,671	36%
Who cares? With NASCAR's new car, Cup races fill that void.	1,334	14%

STOP 'N' GO

WHO'S HOT

■ **Kyle Busch:** Your new Sprint Cup Series points leader.
■ **Carl Edwards:** The Ford camp may be small, but it is potent.
■ **Tony Stewart:** Undefeated in Nationwide Series races this season.

WHO'S NOT

Mears

■ **Casey Mears:** To summarize first two races: "That had to hurt."
■ **Dale Earnhardt Jr.:** At Daytona, was the only Hendrick car left in contention. At California, got caught up in a teammate's wreck.
■ **Auto Club:** Wouldn't it be better off spending its money on adding more tow trucks than on sponsoring a racetrack?

— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

SPRINT CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of Feb. 25:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Kyle Busch	335	21. David Gilliland	191
2. Ryan Newman	329	22. Jamie McMurray	187
3. Tony Stewart	316	23. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	186
4. Kurt Busch	299	24. Mark Martin	185
5. Carl Edwards	296	25. Dale Jarrett	184
6. Kasey Kahne	294	26. Paul Menard	179
7. Kevin Harvick	268	27. Juan Montoya	170
8. Jimmie Johnson	267	28. J.J. Yeley	164
9. Greg Biffle	262	29. Michael Waltrip	160
10. Jeff Burton	261	30. David Ragan	158
11. Brian Vickers	257	31. Denny Hamlin	157
12. Martin Truex Jr.	253	32. Robby Gordon	156
13. Elliott Sadler	241	33. Sam Hornish Jr.	152
14. Jeff Gordon	221	34. Jeremy Mayfield	140
15. Matt Kenseth	220	35. Dario Franchitti	136
16. Bobby Labonte	218	36. Travis Kvapil	128
17. Reed Sorenson	212	37. Dave Blaney	127
18. David Reutimann	203	38. Regan Smith	122
19. Clint Bowyer	202	39. Kyle Petty	110
20. Scott Riggs	200	40. John Andretti	106

NATIONWIDE SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of Feb. 25:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Tony Stewart	385	11. Bryan Clauson	211
2. Kyle Busch	355	12. Mike Wallace	206
3. Carl Edwards	289	13. Kelly Bires	200
4. David Reutimann	281	14. Bobby Hamilton Jr.	200
5. Kevin Harvick	270	15. Johnny Sauter	199
6. David Ragan	270	16. Dario Franchitti	194
7. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	266	17. Brad Coleman	191
8. Mike Bliss	241	18. Brad Keselowski	182
9. Jason Leffler	236	19. Jason Keller	176
10. Clint Bowyer	231	20. Steve Wallace	170

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Sam's Town 300, Las Vegas

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of Feb. 23:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Kyle Busch	365	6. Phillip McGilton	261
2. Todd Bodine	345	7. Chad McCumbee	255
3. Johnny Benson	340	8. Dennis Setzer	254
4. David Starr	284	9. Ron Hornaday	253
5. Rick Crawford	281	10. Stacy Compton	250

NEXT RACE: March 7, American Commercial Lines 200, Hampton, Ga.

U.S. open-wheel racing has a lot of ground to make up

A lot of the motorsports writers out in Fontana, Calif., for the Auto Club 500 had to work pretty hard last Friday even though rain and "weepers" on the racetrack meant nothing happened in the NASCAR world.

That's because they had to deal with the news that, after years of a schism that had all but wiped out open-wheel racing as a viable entity in this country, the Indy Racing League and Champ Car had agreed to a reunification deal.

Some of the people writing about the open-wheel reunification would have you believe that the split is the thing that allowed NASCAR to move to its predominant position in American motorsports.

I think there is a cause-and-effect relationship there, but I think they've got it exactly backward.

I think NASCAR caught its wave of success in the late 1980s and early 1990s, in fact that built the folks at open-wheel racing started having arguments about how to combat that. The disagreement grew into a rift that resulted in the separation, opening the door for NASCAR to sweep in and sweep up.

That means a reunified open-wheel series has a lot of ground to make up. And that's the trick.

Open-wheel racing has got to build itself back from pretty much the ground up, and that's not going to happen overnight.

The easy decision, the obvious one, is the one that finally got made last Friday. It took about 10 years longer than it should have to make it, but the idea that open-wheel needed one series to survive in this country was and is a no-brainer.

Now comes the hard part.

The "new" world of Indy Car racing has to put things together in a way that makes sense for everybody. They have to pick the right races to keep on future schedules. They have to come up with ways for teams to reach and maintain viability. They have to figure out how to keep drivers from going to NASCAR where the big money is. They have to get corporate America re-energized toward sponsoring their races and teams.

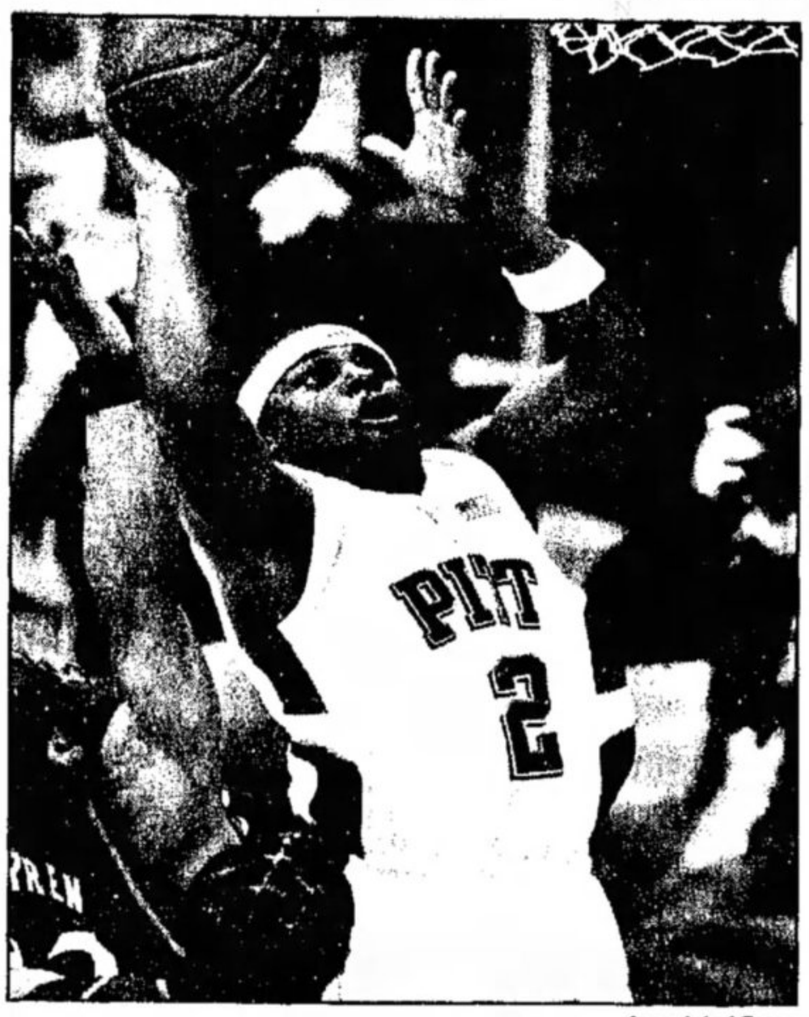
The Indy Car folks have to start doing all of that in the same challenged economy that NASCAR is trying to work in right now. It's not going to be easy, and a lot of people are going to have to make a lot of smart decisions as Indy Car tries to retool and rebuild.

What could scuttle this whole reunion deal is if Indianapolis Motor Speedway owner and IRL President Tony George, who held the trump card of the Indianapolis 500 (the only truly relevant open-wheel race remaining once the two series split), or the people who run the newly reunited open-wheel series try to exact some kind of reparations from the Champ Car teams that come back over from the "other side."

This has to be a fair deal for everyone, or the bitterness that kept the chasm in place for so long will poison what everyone is trying to rebuild.

Originally posted on David Poole's blog, "Life in the Turn Lane," available online at turn-lane.blogspot.com

SPORTS



Associated Press

Pitt's Levance Fields goes up for two points against Cincinnati during the first half Wednesday. At left is Cincinnati's Jamual Warren.

Pitt salvages 73-67 win

Panthers rally from seven-point deficit to defeat Cincinnati.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A season that had contained great promise for Pittsburgh was on the verge of slipping away.

But the Panthers came back from a seven-point second-half deficit for a 73-67 win over Cincinnati on Wednesday that snapped a three-game losing streak and got the Panthers back on track for their seventh consecutive NCAA tournament bid.

"This is a big win for us. We were real excited in the locker room," said Pitt point guard Levance Fields. "After losing three in a row for the first time, it's real good to finally get one and end the losing streak. We can build off this."

Sam Young had 20 points and DeJuan Blair had 18 and a game-high 10 rebounds as Pittsburgh (20-8, 8-7 Big East) avoided its first four-game losing streak in coach Jamie Dixon's five seasons and won its 20th game for the seventh consecutive season.

John Williamson tied a career high with 27 points and Deonta Vaughn had 24 for the Bearcats (13-14, 8-7).

The game featured seven ties and seven lead changes and neither team opened up a lead of more than seven. The game was tied at halftime, and Cincinnati opened the second half on an 11-4 run, forcing Dixon to call a timeout.

For a team that was 11-0 and ranked as high as No. 6 nationally, a late-season four-game losing streak would have jeopardized NCAA tournament hopes.

"We knew from that timeout, if there's anything that's going to change here, it had to change now," said guard Keith Benjamin, who had 11 points. "There's no more waiting, no nothing. We just had to go out there and get it done from now on. We had to get the stops and stick with what we know and do our job. Before we knew it, we were up again."

Pitt scored the next seven points, went on a 14-3 run and never trailed again.

"I don't think I said any bad words, but I might have," Dixon said of the timeout. "They got it going. They figured it out. They knew what they had to do. I thought we really made big plays in gut-check time, and that was the difference."

Pitt held a two-point lead late until Fields' 3-pointer with 54 seconds left made it a two-possession game.

The Panthers shot 52 percent in the second half and forced 17 turnovers while committing only six.

"They put a little pressure on us, and our guys didn't understand the heat Pitt was bringing at us," Cincinnati coach Mick Cronin said. "And then Sam Young stepped up and started putting the ball in the basket."

The win was the first for Pitt since starting point guard Fields returned from injury. The Panthers were undefeated and in the top 10 until Fields broke his foot during a loss to Dayton Dec. 29. The team went 8-4 without Fields and lost all three games since he returned Feb. 15 at Marquette.

Fields had seven points and a team-high five assists.

Dixon became the first Pitt coach to win 20 games five seasons in a row, and Panthers guard Ronald Ramon had nine points to eclipse 1,000 for his career.

"This is great just to get this win. This is going to start us off again," Blair said. "We've got confidence back now in everybody and everybody's coming back around and playing in their roles."

Congress considers steroids legislation

Lawmakers hear from sports commissioners.

WASHINGTON (AP) — As he rose from the witness chair, the commissioner of the NBA got a pat on the back from the head of the players' union.

"David gave it to 'em," Billy Hunter, executive director of the NBA Players' Association, said with a smile.

Certainly, David Stern gave as good as he got when he and his fellow commissioners from the NFL, NHL and Major League Baseball were summoned back to Capitol Hill to discuss drugs in sports.

Some members of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection used Wednesday's hearing to express doubts that the leagues have done enough since a similar session before the same subcommittee in 2005. Several called for a federal law to legislate drug testing for all the major professional sports.

"Let's get it right this time. ... Let's go ahead and get something into law that is acceptable," Texas Republican Joe Barton said. "It's no fun having this hearing every two to three years."

No, thank you, said Stern, who twice interrupted lawmakers to cite the progress made by all four leagues since the 2005 hearing through collective bargaining with their respective unions. He and the other witnesses also cautioned against a one-size-fits-all law that would apply to their very divergent sports.

> "Let's get it right this time. ... Let's go ahead and get something into law that is acceptable."
>
> Joe Barton

"Federal legislation in this area is not necessary for the NBA," Stern said. "Nor do I believe that a uniform, federally mandated approach to drug testing for all sports leagues would be appropriate."

As big as the hearing was, it was upstaged by news from another panel. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform asked the Justice Department to investigate whether Roger Clemens lied under oath when he denied using steroids and human growth hormone at a Feb. 5 sworn deposition and at a Feb. 13 hearing.

There were no players at Wednesday's hearing. Instead, the commissioners sat side-by-side with their sport's union chiefs: Bud Selig was inches away from Donald Fehr; Stern was next to Hunter. Then there was the NFL's Roger Goodell and Gene Upshaw, and the NHL's Gary Bettman and Paul Kelly.

Baseball had the most to prove, having implemented a stringent steroids policy only in the past few years. The NFL began addressing the problem some two decades ago, while the NBA and NHL say the nature of their sports is such that steroids use is virtually nonexistent.

As for HGH, the commissioners seemed inclined to wait and see if scientists can develop a way to detect it through a urine sample rather than a blood sample, as has been done at the Olympics.

Selig said he has met with Fehr and a group of players to discuss implementing the recommendations of former Sen. George Mitchell's report on drug use in baseball.

SPORTS DIGEST

BV Area swimmers fifth in WPIAL

With a fifth place out of 54 teams, Belle Vernon Area High's swimmers made the school's best showing ever in the WPIAL Class AA Championship.

The Leps' 400 freestyle relay team of seniors Andre Maldonado and Jay Lewis, junior Zachary Wardle and sophomore Brendan Lacey qualified for the PIAA meet at Bucknell University with a surprising second place finish Wednesday at Pitt's Trees Pool.

The quartet, which qualified in the 200 freestyle relay relay Tuesday, set a school record with a time of 3:22.92.

Shady Side Academy had a winning time of 3:14.20.

Lacey had fifths in the 200 and 500 freestyle with Wardle sixth in the 100 freestyle with a new school mark.

Charleroi hires spring coaches

There's no change in Charleroi High's spring sports head coaching family.

Rehired with their salaries were Bruno Pappasergi (baseball, $4,173), Joe Caruso (track, $4,398), Bill Hughes Jr. (softball, $2,678) and Tom Kurtz (volleyball, $1,200).

Other coaches hired were Brian Corrin (varsity assistant baseball, $2,181), Luke Mollis (junior varsity baseball, $1,442), Martin Matyas (first assistant track, $2,500), Keith Boord (assistant track, $2,166), Nick Mahalko (assistant track, $1,565), Eric Farner (middle school track, $1,275), Joe Grodz (middle school track assistant, $983), Bill Hughes III (softball assistant, $1,4420, Charles Yakich (middle school softball, uncompensated board member), Melinda Householder (middle school softball, $927) and Ellen Kurtz (volleyball assistant, $800).

Softball league looking for teams

The Greater Mon-Yough Softball League is looking for teams.

Currently down to six teams, the league is looking for teams of all talent levels.

If there's enough interest, divisions would be formed so all teams would play against others of the same caliber.

Any individual or group representing businesses, fraternal organizations, communities, churches interested in possibly getting a new team in the league should call either (724) 929-5493 or (724) 483-0846.

Monessen eyes 8-and-under players

Monessen girls softball is looking for players in the 8-and-under age group.

Interested players should contact either Debbie Bachinski at (724) 684-5909 or Ed Minardi at (724) 684-5737.

Panthers cut Carr, sign Muhammad

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The Carolina Panthers cut ties with disappointing quarterback David Carr and brought back an old favorite, receiver Muhsin Muhammad.

Carr was released a year after he signed a $6 million, two-year deal with the Panthers following a five-year stint as a starter in Houston. But Carr struggled so much when he took over for the injured Jake Delhomme last season that he was eventually demoted to third-string.

Carr leaves Carolina as Muhammad prepares for his second stint with the franchise, a week after he was released by the Chicago Bears.

Ravens terminate Anderson's contract

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP) — The Baltimore Ravens terminated the contract of veteran running back Mike Anderson, freeing up his $1.8 million salary.

Anderson spent two seasons with the Ravens, gaining 245 yards rushing and scoring one touchdown. He also had 13 catches for 80 yards.

Ottawa fires Paddock, Low

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The struggling Ottawa Senators fired coach John Paddock, with just 18 games to go in the season.

General manager Bryan Murray will take over as coach. Murray stepped aside to become the general manager last summer, when Paddock was given the job.

Assistant coach Ron Low was also fired, a day after the team was shut out for the second consecutive game.

Daughter for retired Clijsters

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — U.S. Open champion Kim Clijsters gave birth to a daughter, nine months after retiring from tennis.

Clijsters and her husband, American basketball player Brian Lynch, named the baby Jada.

The 24-year-old Clijsters retired in May, saying a string of injuries had led to fatigue, a lack of motivation and a decline in play. She said she wanted to focus on a new life with Lynch, who plays in the Belgian league.

Clijsters was Belgium's first tennis player to reach the No. 1 ranking, holding it for 19 weeks in 2003.

Trivia answer

Charles Smith and Brandin Knight.

Pirates win opener

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP) — John Russell says he understands that today's exhibition opener won't be nearly the same as when he makes his regular-season debut as the Pittsburgh Pirates' manager on March 31 in Atlanta.

Nevertheless, he said he is looking forward to the first official game of the spring when the Pirates visit the Philadelphia Phillies in Clearwater, Fla.

"After you've been in spring training for a couple of weeks, you get tired of just working out and taking batting practice off your own pitchers," Russell said Wednesday. "You want to get out on the field and start competing."

Russell, hired to replace Jim Tracy last November, and his all-new coaching staff have been stressing the importance of fundamentals this spring. Now, Russell is looking forward to seeing his team put that theory into practice.

Russell said he was pleased with the Pirates' performance in a 5-0 win over Manatee Community College in a charity game Wednesday, though none of the players expected to be in Pittsburgh's opening-day lineup participated.

"We did a good job of driving in runs and taking the extra base when the opportunity was there," Russell said. "Our pitchers also did a really good job of throwing strikes and keeping the ball low in the strike zone."

"Those have all been points of emphasis this spring," he said. "Now, we'd like to continue to see that progression during the exhibition season and keep building on it as we get closer to the regular season."

The Pirates had little roster turnover in the offseason and have few positions open this spring. The most interesting competition will be between Nate McLouth and Nyjer Morgan to be the center fielder and leadoff hitter.

They were two of the few bright spots last season when the Pirates had the worst record in the National League (68-94). McLouth hit .258 with 13 home runs and had a team-high 22 stolen bases in 137 games. Morgan batted .299 with seven steals in 29 games during a September call-up.

"Its just nice to know that you have a chance to be in the starting lineup," said McLouth, who has spent the first two seasons of his career primarily in a reserve role.

Hossa will team with Malone, Staal

Marian Hossa

Marian Hossa will make his Pittsburgh Penguin debut tonight in Boston on a line with Ryan Malone and Jordan Staal.

Meanwhile, Pittsburgh defenseman Rob Scuderi needs an operation to repair a broken left little finger and will be out three or four weeks.

Scuderi, who has played in all 64 Penguins games this season, was injured during a 4-2 win over the Islanders on Tuesday night. He was expected to undergo surgery this morning.

Besides Hossa, new Penguins defenseman Hal Gill and forward Pascal Dupuis are expected to play after practicing with the team Wednesday.

The Penguins also are without forward Adam Hall, who is expected to miss the rest of the regular season after having surgery Wednesday on a hernia. Hall, who has two goals and four assists in 44 games, hasn't played since Jan. 19.

The Penguins also are missing star Sidney Crosby, out since Jan. 18 with a sprained right ankle, and forward Gary Roberts, who hasn't played since breaking a leg Dec. 29 and also has an ankle injury. Crosby, who has been skating on his own this week, is not expected to play until at least next week.

SPORTS HISTORY

30 Years Ago

Motordrome officials announced that Daytona 500 winner Bobby Allison would be at the Smithton dirt track for a late model invitational July 26.

The Charleroi School Board approved the boys' basketball program staying in Class AAA and the girls dropping to Class AA.

The California State College men's basketball team was the top seed in the ECAC Regional tourney at the University of Maryland at Baltimore County.

Rollie Dotsch was hired as the Pittsburgh Steelers' new offensive line coach.

20 Years Ago

Belle Vernon Area sophomore Brad Hoffman qualified for the PIAA swim championships for the second straight year with a second in the 200 individual medley and third in the 100 backstroke.

The Steelers raised their ticket prices from $17 to $20 for seats in the field, loge and terrace boxes at Three Rivers Stadium.

SPORTS

NHL standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	37	21	6	80	171	150
Pittsburgh	36	21	7	79	190	173
N.Y. Rangers	32	24	8	72	166	158
Philadelphia	31	25	7	69	192	182
N.Y. Islanders	30	27	7	67	158	184

Northeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	36	22	6	78	210	192
Montreal	34	21	9	77	201	181
Boston	33	23	6	72	169	167
Buffalo	31	24	9	71	196	182
Toronto	28	28	9	65	181	203

Southeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	33	28	5	71	196	208
Washington	29	27	8	66	181	197
Florida	28	30	8	64	178	193
Atlanta	29	31	4	62	170	208
Tampa Bay	25	31	7	57	179	206

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	42	17	6	90	203	145
Nashville	32	25	8	72	190	189
Columbus	29	27	9	67	158	170
Chicago	30	27	6	66	179	180
St. Louis	28	25	10	66	160	176

Northwest Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Minnesota	35	24	5	75	174	174
Calgary	33	22	9	75	182	181
Vancouver	32	22	9	73	169	160
Colorado	33	26	6	72	178	178
Edmonton	29	30	5	63	173	193

Pacific Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	40	22	5	85	199	164
Anaheim	36	23	7	79	167	163
San Jose	34	21	8	76	165	153
Phoenix	32	27	5	69	173	172
Los Angeles	26	34	4	56	186	212

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss.

Wednesday's Games

Buffalo 8, Nashville 4
San Jose 4, Columbus 2
Minnesota 3, Tampa Bay 2
Toronto 4, Florida 3, SO
Chicago 1, Phoenix 0
Colorado 3, Vancouver 2, SO

Today's Games

N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Boston, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at St. Louis, 8:30 p.m.
Chicago at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Edmonton, 9 p.m.

PSAC standings

Men

Western Division

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
California	11	0	22	4
Edinboro	10	1	21	5
Clarion	6	5	15	11
Indiana	4	7	12	14
Slippery Rock	4	7	7	19
Lock Haven	2	9	2	23
Shippensburg	2	10	8	19

Eastern Division

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
Cheyney	10	2	18	8
Kutztown	9	2	18	8
Millersville	7	4	18	8
East Stroudsburg	6	5	18	8
Mansfield	4	7	16	10
West Chester	3	8	12	14
Bloomsburg	0	11	8	18

Wednesday

California 68, Slippery Rock 54
Edinboro 79, Clarion 76
Shippensburg 72, Indiana 62
Chjeyney 77, Milelrsville 69
East Stroudsburg 64, Mansfield 54
West Chester 59, Bloomsburg 56
Kutztown 112, Columbia Union 96

Saturday

California at Edinboro, 3 p.m.
Clarion at Slippery Rock
Lock Haven at Indiana
Bloomsburg at Mansfield
East Stroudsburg at Kutztown
Millersville at West Chester

Women

Western Division

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
Indiana	8	3	23	4
California	8	3	21	5
Clarion	7	4	17	8
Shippensburg	7	5	19	8
Edinboro	6	5	17	9
Lock Haven	2	9	7	18
Slippery Rock	1	10	7	19

Eastern Division

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
Millersville	11	0	22	4
West Chester	9	2	18	8
Cheyney	7	5	11	15
East Stroudsburg	5	6	11	14
Kutztown	4	7	11	15
Bloomsburg	2	9	7	19
Mansfield	1	10	6	20

Wednesday

California 82, Slippery Rock 58
Edinboro 70, Clarion 67
Shippensurg 77, Indiana 50
West Chester 65, Bloomsburg 61
Millersville 73, Cheyney 53
East Stroudsburg 64, Mansfield 44

Saturday

California at Edinboro, 1 p.m.
Clarion at Slippery Rock
Lock Haven at Indiana
Bloomsburg at Mansfield
East Stroudsburg at Kutztown
Millersville at West Chester

Cal U lineups

MEN

Califoirnia - 68

Sawyer, 1-0-3; Hairston, 5-0-11; Colao, 4-2-12; Banks, 5-3-13; Mbaye, 4-5-13; Logan, 4-2-10; Johnson, 0-0-0; Brooks, 1-0-2; Berenato, 1-0-2; Vaughn, 0-2-2; Parker, 0-0-0. Totals: FG - 25 (55), F - 14 (20), T - 68.

Slippery Rock - 54

Johnson, 2-2-6; Schaefer, 1-2-5; Vines, 1-0-2; Perry, 2-0-4; Robinson, 2-0-4; Coleman, 5-1-11; Levy, 3-0-6; Scales, 1-0-2; Somerville, 5-2-12; Burka, 1-0-2. Totals: FG - 23 (55), F - 7 (15), T - 54.

Halftime score: 34-26, California

Three pointers: Califoirnia (4-17) Colao 2, Sawyer, Hairston. Slippery Rock (1-14) Schaefer.

WOMEN

California - 82

Johnson, 5-1-11; Williams, 10-4-24; Andrews, 1-0-2; Mance, 6-1-13; Smith, 6-5-17; Benick, 1-0-2; Dubyak, 2-3-7; Briggs, 2-2-6; Evans, 0-0-0. Totals: FG - 33 (69), F - 16 (23), T - 82.

Slippery Rock - 58

Nero, 2-0-4; Molley, 6-2-16; Gaidosh, 2-0-4; Busser, 3-2-8; Staudinger, 5-5-15; Presto, 0-0-0; Schake, 0-0-0; Watson, 2-0-5; Stewart, 0-0-0; Smith, 0-2-2; Vlah, 1-0-2; McNeely, 0-2-2. Totals: FG - 21 (39), F - 13 (18), T - 58.

Halftime score: 33-29, Slippery Rock.

Three-pointers: California (0-9) Slippery Rock (3-10) Molloy 2, Watson.

Glen Murray and the Boston Bruins will host the Penguins at 7 p.m. on Fox Sports.

Sports dial

Today

Television

4 p.m. - Golf Channel - Honda Classic, golf.

7 p.m. - Fox Sports - Pittsburgh at Boston, hockey.

7 p.m. - ESPN - Notre Dame at Louisville, college basketball.

7 p.m. - ESPN2 - St. Louis at St. Joseph, college basketball.

8 p.m. - TNT - Dallas at San Antonio, pro basketball.

9 p.m. - ESPN - Southern California at Arizona, college basketball.

9 p.m. - ESPN2 - Michigan State at Wisconsin, college basketball.

10:30 p.m. - TNT - Miami at Los Angeles Lakers, pro basketball.

11 p.m. - Fox Sports - Washington State at California, college basketball.

Radio

1:05 p.m. - WPGB (104.7 FM) - Pittsburgh vs Philadelphia, baseball.

7 p.m. - WXDX (105.9 FM) - Pittsburgh at Boston, hockey.

Sports moves

FOOTBALL

National Football League

BALTIMORE RAVENS—Terminated the contract of RB Mike Anderson.

BUFFALO BILLS—Terminated the contracts of RB Anthony Thomas, LB Coy Wire and CD Jerametrius Butler. Waived G Aaron Merz.

CAROLINA PANTHERS—Released QB David Carr. Agreed to terms with WR Muhsin Muhammad on a two-year contract.

CLEVELAND BROWNS—Terminated the contract of DL Orpheus Roye.

DENVER BRONCOS—Named Jedd Fisch wide receivers coach.

DETROIT LIONS—Signed S Dwight Smith to a two-year contract.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Released LB Rob Morris and DT Anthony McFarland.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Released QB Kelly Holcomb.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS—Agreed to terms with C Jonathan Goodwin and WR Terrance Cooper on one-year contracts.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Re-signed NT Isaac Sopoaga to a five-year contract.

TENNESSEE TITANS—Agreed to terms with WR Justin Gage on a multiyear contract.

BASEBALL

American League

CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Agreed to terms with RHP Lance Broadway, LHP John Danks, RHP Dewon Day, RHP Jack Egbert, RHP Gavin Floyd, RHP Charlie Haeger, RHP Lucas Harrell, LHP Boone Logan, RHP Nick Masset, RHP Oneli Perez, RHP Bobby Jenks, RHP Adam Russell, LHP Andrew Sisco, LHP Carlos Vasquez, RHP Ehren Wassermann, C Cole Armstrong, C Donny Lucy, INF Danny Richar, CF Brian Anderson, OF Jerry Owens and OF Carlos Quentin on one-year contracts. Renewed the contract of 3B Josh Fields.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Agreed to terms with INF Alberto Callaspo, INF Angel Sanchez and OF Shane Costa on one-year contracts.

MINNESOTA TWINS—Agreed to terms with RHP Scott Baker, RHP Nick Blackburn, RHP Boof Bonser, RHP Carmen Cali, RHP Julio DePaula, LHP Francisco Liriano, RHP Pat Neshek, LHP Glen Perkins, RHP Kevin Slowey, RHP Oswaldo Sosa, C Jose Morales, 3B Brian Buscher, 2B Alexi Casilla, 2B Brendan Harris, CF Carlos Gomez and OF Garrett Jones on one-year contracts.

TAMPA BAY RAYS—Agreed to terms with RHP Jae Kuk Ryu on a one-year contract.

National League

HOUSTON ASTROS—Agreed to terms with RHP Felipe Paulino on a one-year contract.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Returned RHP Mark DiFelice to their minor league camp. Agreed to terms with RHP Carlos Villanueva on a one-year contract.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Released INF Scott Spiezio.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

BOSTON CELTICS—Signed F P.J. Brown for the rest of the season.

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS—Signed F Nick Fazekas to 10-day contract.

MIAMI HEAT—Assigned G Daequan Cook and C Joel Anthony to Iowa (NBADL).

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

ATLANTA THRASHERS—Assigned F Colin Stuart to Chicago (AHL).

DALLAS STARS—Assigned D Dan Jancevski and G Tobias Stephan to Iowa (AHL) and D Nolan Baumgartner to Manitoba (AHL).

LOS ANGELES KINGS—Recalled D Jon Klemm from Manchester (AHL).

OTTAWA SENATORS—Fired John Paddock, coach, and Ron Low, assistant coach. Named Bryan Murray coach.

SAN JOSE SHARKS—Assigned G Thomas Greiss to Worcester (AHL).

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Recalled D Alexandre Picard from Norfolk (AHL).

PIAA basketball playoffs

Boys

Western Region

Saturday

Class AAAA

At Garden Spot High

2:30 p.m. - Reading (30-0) vs. Souderton (17-12)

At Germantown High

2:30 p.m. - South Philadelphia (21-6) vs. Downingtown West (23-6)

At Council Rock High

4:30 p.m. -Norristown (28-1) vs. John Bartrum (21-6)

At Tyrone Middle School

2:30 p.m. - State College (18-8) vs. Mechanicsburg (20-10)

At Plum High

3 p.m. - Central Catholic (23-4) vs. Franklin Regional (20-7)

At Edinboro University

6:30 p.m. - Erie McDowell (25-2) vs. Norwin (20-7)

At North Allegheny

3 p.m. - Moon (20-7) vs. Canon-McMillan (18-8)

At Taylor Allderdice

3 p.m. - Schenley (25-2) vs. McKeesport (19-4)

Friday

Class AAA

At Shikellamy High

7 p.m - Selinsgrove (18-9) vs. Hershey (16-11)

At Hersheypark Arena

6:30 p.m. -Steelton-Highspire (23-6) vs. Johnstown (12-14)

At Pitt-Bradford

7 p.m. - Bradford (18-7) vs. Chartiers Valley (24-3)

At North Allegheny

7:30 p.m. - Hopewell (21-6) vs. Franklin (19-7)

At New Castle High

7:30 p.m. - Blackhawk (23-5) vs. Meadville (18-10)

At Taylor Allderdice

7:30 p.m. - Perry (14-12) vs. Greensburg-Salem (21-6)

At Johnstown High

7:30 p.m. - Central Cambria (23-3) vs. Ambridge (10-16)

At Edinboro University

7:30 p.m. - General McLane (24-3) vs. Keystone Oaks (16-11)

Saturday

Class AA

At Hempfield

5 p.m. - Jeannette (20-4) vs. Kane (18-9).

At Edinboro University

8 p.m. - Girard (22-5) vs. Greensburg Central Catholic (18-9)

At Chestnut Ridge High

6 p.m - Tussey Mountain (23-3) vs. North Catholic (23-4)

At Central Cambria High

7 p.m. - Bishop McCort (20-5) vs. Monessen (19-6)

At Clarion University

5:30 p.m. - Cranberry (17-10) vs. South Fayette (20-6)

At New Castle High

3 p.m. -Beaver Falls (22-4) vs. Farrell (23-4)

At North Hills

5:30 p.m. - Canevin (15-13) vs. Tyrone (22-5)

At Penn State Behrend

7 p.m. - North East (26-0) vs. Riverside (25-2)

Friday

Class A

At Fox Chapel High

7:30 p.m. - Serra Catholic (25-2) vs. Elk County Catholic (22-6)

7:30 p.m. - Bishop Guilfoyle (19-8) vs. St. Joseph (14-11)

At Chestnut Ridge High

6 p.m. - Southern Fulton (20-7) vs. Bentworth (17-8)

At Clarion University

7:30 p.m. - DuBois Central Catholic (26-3) vs. Iroquois (15-12)

At St. Mary's High

7 p.m. - Coudersport (27-0) vs. Homer-Center (21-7)

At North Hills High

7:30 p.m. - Union (16-7) vs. Shade (25-3)

At Charlerol

7:30 p.m. -Wilkinsburg (15-11) vs. Harmony (22-5)

At Farrell High

7 p.m. - Kennedy Catholic (17-9) vs. Rocky Grove (26-2)

Girls

Western Region

Friday

First Round

Class AAAA

At North Allegheny

6 p.m. -Upper St. Clair (22-5) vs. Butler (24-3)

At Fairview High

6 p.m - Erie McDowell (18-9) vs. Mt. Lebanon (24-3)

At North Hills

6 p.m. -Peters Township (20-8) vs. New Castle (19-6).

At Taylor Allderdice

6 p.m. - Schenley (22-4) vs. Oakland Catholic (16-11).

Class AAA

Saturday

At Shikellamy High

5:30 p.m. - Selinsgrove (26-1) vs. Muhlenburg (21-8).

At New Oxford High

3:30 p.m. - Gettysburg (20-8) vs. Lewistown (21-5)

At Clarion University

7 p.m. - St. Marys (22-3) vs. Indiana (23-4)

At New Castle High

7 p.m. - West Mifflin (24-4) vs. Meadville (20-7), New Castle Area HS, 4:30 p.m.

At North Allegheny

4:30 p.m. - Hampton (26-2) vs. Mercyhurst Prep (26-2)

At Taylor Allderdice

5 p.m. - Westinghouse (22-4) vs. Chartiers Valley (20-7)

At Tyrone Middle School

5 p.m. -Bellefonte (20-6) vs. Ambridge (16-9)

At Allegheny College

7:30 p.m. - General McLane (22-5) vs. Perry (16-10)

Class AA

Friday

At Fox Chapel High

6 p.m. - South Park (21-8) vs. Cranberry (17-9),

At Fairview High

7:30 p.m. - Girard (23-4) vs. Sto-Rox (16-8)

At Chestnut Ridge

8 p.m. - Conemaugh Township (23-3) vs. Ford City (20-7)

At Central Cambria

8 p.m. -Northern Cambria (25-1) vs. Beaver (16-7)

At Clarion University

6 p.m - Karns City (16-10) vs. Greensburg Central Catholic (17-8)

At New Castle High

6 p.m. - Sacred Heart (25-2) vs. Cambridge Springs (23-4)

At Charlerol

6 p.m. - Washington (24-2) vs. Bishop McCort (26-2)

At Edinboro University

6 p.m. -Villa Maria Academy (23-4) vs. Riverside-Everett winner.

Class A

Saturday

At Hempfield

3 p.m. - Mt. Alvernia (17-8) vs. Austin

At Central Cambria

5:30 p.m. -Saltsburg (20-6) vs. Serra Catholic (16-6)

At Chestnut Ridge High

4 p.m. - Berlin Brothersvalley (21-7) vs. Vincentian Academy (17-9)

At Clarion University

4 p.m. - West Forest (22-6) vs. Eisenhower (19-6)

At St. Marys High

4 p.m. - Coudersport (26-2) vs. Blairsville (12-14)

At Plum High

4:30 p.m. - Avonworth (14-10) vs. Shanksville-Stonycreek (19-8)

At North Hills High

4 p.m. - Monessen (26-1) vs. Ferndale (22-5)

At Allegheny College

6 p.m. - Farrell (23-2) vs. Clarion (18-10)

NBA standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	44	12	.786	—
Toronto	32	24	.571	12
Philadelphia	26	32	.448	19
New Jersey	25	32	.439	19 1/2
New York	18	39	.316	26 1/2

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	37	23	.617	—
Washington	27	30	.474	8 1/2
Atlanta	23	32	.418	11 1/2
Charlotte	19	38	.333	16 1/2
Miami	10	44	.185	24

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	42	16	.724	—
Cleveland	32	26	.552	10
Chicago	23	34	.404	18 1/2
Milwaukee	22	35	.386	19 1/2
Indiana	22	36	.379	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	38	17	.691	—
New Orleans	38	18	.679	1/2
Dallas	38	19	.667	1
Houston	37	20	.649	2
Memphis	14	43	.246	25

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	37	21	.638	—
Denver	34	23	.596	2 1/2
Portland	30	28	.517	7
Seattle	15	42	.263	21 1/2
Minnesota	12	44	.214	24

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	40	17	.702	—
Phoenix	39	19	.672	1 1/2
Golden State	34	22	.607	5 1/2
Sacramento	26	31	.456	14
L.A. Clippers	19	36	.345	20

Wednesday's Games

Chicago 113, Indiana 107
Atlanta 123, Sacramento 117
Philadelphia 101, Orlando 89
Toronto 107, Minnesota 85
Boston 92, Cleveland 87
New York 113, Charlotte 89
New Orleans 120, Phoenix 103
Utah 103, Detroit 95
Denver 138, Seattle 96
Portland 82, L.A. Clippers 80

Today's Games

Milwaukee at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Miami at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Latest Line

BEST BET: Dallas is a solid 5-3 straight-up and 7-1 vs. the spread its last 8 road games against San Antonio. The three straight-up losses were by a combined total of just 5 points. San Antonio is just 4-6 vs. the spread its last 10 games as a favorite of 5 or less points. The road team should be able to keep this one close again tonight. Take Dallas +5 for another Best Bet winner. Other plays include New Jersey -3 vs. Milwaukee.

NBA

Favorite	Points	Underdog
NEW JERSEY	3	Milwaukee
SAN ANTONIO	5	Dallas
LA LAKERS	14 1/2	Miami

College Basketball

Favorite	Points	Underdog
LOUISVILLE	8 1/2	Notre Dame
ST. JOSEPH'S	13	St. Louis
VALPARAISO	13 1/2	Detroit
LA-LAFAYETTE	2	North Texas
WAKE FOREST	3 1/2	Maryland
WISC MILW.	5 1/2	Loyola Chicago
S. ALABAMA	14	New Orleans
WISC GR. BAY	2 1/2	Illinois Chicago
ARKANSAS ST	3 1/2	La-Monroe
ARK L. ROCK	11	Denver
BUTLER	13	Wright State
ARIZONA	5	Southern Cal
WISCONSIN	6	Michigan State
CS FULLER.	7 1/2	CS Northridge
PACIFIC	15 1/2	UC Davis
CAL POLY SLO	8	Cal Riverside
UTAH STATE	19	Louisiana Tech
NEVADA	3 1/2	N. Mexico State
STANFORD	12	Washington
Boise State	4 1/2	SAN JOSE ST
CAL IRVINE	14	Long Beach St
Ucla	8	ARIZONA STATE
Washington St	3 1/2	CALIFORNIA
HAWAII	11	Idaho
LOYOLA MD	16 1/2	Canisius
W. CAROLINA	3	Wofford
CHARLESTON	2 1/2	Ga Southern
Furman	1	THE CITADEL
TENN. TECH	3 1/2	Murray State
NC GREENS.	8 1/2	Tenn Chatt.
MOREHEAD ST	2	Tennessee State
E. KENTUCKY	6	Austin Peay
E. ILLINOIS	4 1/2	Jacksonville St
N. ARIZONA	6 1/2	Weber State
SE MO ST	4	Samford
MONTANA ST	1	Portland State
MONTANA	9 1/2	N. Colorado
Idaho State	2	SACRAMENTO ST

NHL

Favorite	Goals	Underdog
Ottawa	Even-1/2	PHILA
ATLANTA	Even-1/2	NY Islanders
NY Rangers	Even-1/2	CAROLINA
BOSTON	Even-1/2	Pittsburgh
DALLAS	1-1 1/2	Chicago
ST. LOUIS	Even-1/2	Phoenix
EDMONTON	Even-1/2	Los Angeles

HOME TEAM IN CAPS

College basketball

MEN

EAST

Albany, N.Y. 74, Binghamton 62
Army 65, Lafayette 60
Colgate 63, Holy Cross 55
Delaware 74, Hofstra 69
Drexel 70, James Madison 67
George Washington 85, Rhode Island 68
Georgetown 64, St. John's 52
La Salle 83, Fordham 78
Lehigh 50, Bucknell 39
Navy 83, American U. 68
Penn St. 65, Iowa 64
Pittsburgh 73, Cincinnati 67
Richmond 82, St. Bonaventure 71
Temple 75, Charlotte 61

SOUTH

Alabama 59, Arkansas 56
Clemson 79, Miami 69
Davidson 68, Appalachian St. 55
Duke 71, Georgia Tech 58
East Carolina 82, SMU 54
Florida 77, Georgia 64
Florida Atlantic 99, Troy 93
Florida St. 72, N.C. State 62
George Mason 60, William & Mary 54
Georgia St. 79, Towson 63
High Point 77, Radford 54
Kentucky 58, Mississippi 54
LSU 62, South Carolina 55
Memphis 82, Tulsa 67
Mississippi St. 89, Auburn 78
Old Dominion 70, Northeastern 58
UCF 80, Tulane 63
UNC Asheville 78, Coastal Carolina 72
Va. Commonwealth 72, UNC Wilmington 58
W. Kentucky 69, Fla. International 54

MIDWEST

IUPUI 89, Chicago St. 75
Illinois St. 68, Creighton 54
Kansas 75, Iowa St. 64
N. Iowa 73, Indiana St. 58
Nebraska 63, Oklahoma 45
Purdue 65, Minnesota 53
West Virginia 85, DePaul 73

SOUTHWEST

Houston 95, Southern Miss. 67
Lamar 79, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 72
McNeese St. 74, Texas-San Antonio 53
Sam Houston St. 79, Texas-Arlington 65
Stephen F.Austin 74, Texas St. 70
TCU 67, Utah 61
Texas A&M 98, Texas Tech 54
UAB 88, UTEP 81

FAR WEST

Baylor 68, Colorado 57
Wyoming 77, Colorado St. 67

WOMEN

EAST

American U. 69, Navy 37
Army 51, Lafayette 41
Binghamton 73, Stony Brook 72
Boston U. 66, New Hampshire 39
Buffalo 68, Akron 54
Charlotte 79, Fordham 55
Duquesne 70, Rhode Island 56
Fairfield 59, Manhattan 58
Hartford 57, Albany, N.Y. 43
Holy Cross 63, Colgate 53
Lehigh 55, Bucknell 48
Marist 70, St. Peter's 57
Massachusetts 70, St. Bonaventure 50
Rutgers 60, DePaul 46
Saint Joseph's 70, La Salle 52
Vermont 74, Maine 52

SOUTH

George Washington 75, Richmond 59
Louisiana-Lafayette 68, North Texas 63
South Alabama 55, New Orleans 50
Troy 62, Florida Atlantic 57
W. Kentucky 79, Fla. International 56
Winthrop 56, Liberty 52

MIDWEST

Ball St. 81, Cent. Michigan 69
Bowling Green 82, Ohio 67
Dayton 68, Xavier 58
E. Michigan 58, Toledo 57
Iowa St. 58, Missouri 54
Kansas St. 69, Nebraska 65
Miami (Ohio) 76, Kent St. 59
N. Illinois 67, W. Michigan 65
Notre Dame 92, South Florida 49
Temple 77, Saint Louis 66
Texas 57, Kansas 53

SOUTHWEST

Baylor 76, Colorado 62
Oklahoma 65, Texas Tech 55
Texas A&M 63, Oklahoma St. 57

FAR WEST

Cal Poly 54, UC Riverside 52
San Diego St. 68, UNLV 50
Utah 68, TCU 53
Wyoming 68, Colorado St. 46

Pitt lineups

PITT - 73

Young 8-13 3-3 20, Blair 6-7 6-8 18, Benjamin 3-7 3-6 11, Fields 2-9 2-4 7, Ramon 3-11 0-0 9, Biggs 2-4 0-0 5, Brown 1-2 1-2 3, Wanamaker 0-0 0-0 0, McGhee 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-53 15-23 73.

CINCINNATI - 67

Gentry 0-0 0-0 0, Williamson 12-18 2-3 27, Hrycaniuk 3-5 1-2 7, Vaughn 8-18 2-2 24, Warren 0-4 0-0 0, Sikes 0-0 0-0 0, Davis 0-0 0-0 0, Bishop 2-4 1-2 6, McClain 0-2 1-2 1, Belton 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 26-54 7-11 67.

Halftime—Tied 29-29.

3-Point Goals—Cincinnati 8-18 (Vaughn 6-13, Williamson 1-1, Bishop 1-2, Warren 0-2), Pittsburgh 8-26 (Ramon 3-11, Benjamin 2-4, Biggs 1-2, Fields 1-3, Young 1-5, Brown 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Cincinnati 37 (Williamson 9), Pittsburgh 25 (Blair 10). Assists—Cincinnati 19 (Vaughn 8), Pittsburgh 16 (Fields 5). Total Fouls—Cincinnati 17, Pittsburgh 14.

A—11,525.

Big East standings

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
Georgetown	13	3	23	4
Louisville	12	3	22	6
Notre Dame	11	3	21	5
Connecticut	11	4	22	6
Marquette	11	5	21	6
West Virginia	9	6	20	8
Pittsburgh	8	7	20	8
Cincinnati	8	7	13	14
Villanova	7	8	17	10
Seton Hall	7	8	17	11
Syracuse	7	8	17	11
DePaul	5	10	10	17
Providence	4	11	13	14
St. John's	4	11	10	17
South Florida	2	13	11	17
Rutgers	2	14	10	19

Wednesday's Games

Georgetown 64, St. John's 52
Pittsburgh 73, Cincinnati 67
West Virginia 85, DePaul 73

Today's Games

Notre Dame at Louisville, 7 p.m.

Spring training

Wednesday's Games

Pittsburgh 5, Manatee CC 0
Philadelphia 8, Cincinnati 1
Detroit 4, N.Y. Mets 2
St. Louis 15, Saint Louis U. 2, 7 innings
Atlanta 8, Georgia 1
Colorado 7, Chicago White Sox 3
Texas 6, Kansas City 1
Washington 3, Florida 3, tie

Today's Games

Georgetown vs. Washington at Vero Beach, Fla., 11:30 a.m.

N.Y. Mets vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.

Atlanta vs. Los Angeles at Vero Beach, Fla., 1:05 p.m.

Houston vs. Cleveland at Winter Haven, Fla., 1:05 p.m.

Toronto vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla., 1:05 p.m.

Florida vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., 1:05 p.m.

Minnesota (ss) vs. Cincinnati at Sarasota, Fla., 1:05 p.m.

Pittsburgh vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla., 1:05 p.m.

Boston College vs. Boston (ss), at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.

Colorado (ss) vs. Arizona at Tucson, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.

Chicago White Sox vs. Colorado (ss) at Tucson, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.

Oakland vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, 3:05 p.m.

Chicago Cubs vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.

San Diego vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz., 3:05 p.m. (charity game)

Texas vs. Los Angeles Angels at Tempe, Ariz., 5:05 p.m.

Northeastern U. vs. Boston (ss), at Fort Myers, Fla., 6:05 p.m.

Cope

(FROM PAGE ONE)

Cope became so popular that the Steelers didn't try to replace his unique perspective and top-of-the-lungs vocal histrionics when he retired, instead downsizing from a three-man announcing team to a two-man booth.

Just as Pirates fans once did with longtime broadcaster Bob Prince, Steelers fans began tuning in to hear what wacky stunt or colorful phrase Cope would come up with next. With a voice beyond imitation — a falsetto so shrill it could pierce even the din of a touchdown celebration — Cope was a man of many words, some not in any dictionary.

To Cope, an exceptional play rated a "Yoi!" A coach's doublespeak was "garganzola." The despised rival to the north was always the Cleve Brownies, never the Cleveland Browns.

Cope gave four-time Super Bowl champion coach Chuck Noll the only nickname that ever stuck, the Emperor Chaz. For years, Cope laughed off the downriver and often downtrodden Cincinnati Bengals as the Bungles, though never with a malice or nastiness that would create longstanding anger.

Among those longtime listeners was a Pittsburgh high school star turned NFL player turned Steelers coach — Bill Cowher.

"My dad would listen to his talk show and I would think, 'Why would you listen to that?'" Cowher said. "Then I found myself listening to that. I (did) my show with him, and he makes ME feel young."

Cope, who was born Myron Kopelman, was preceded in death by his wife, Mildred, in 1994. He is survived by a daughter, Elizabeth, and a son, Daniel, who is autistic and lives at Allegheny Valley School, which received all rights to the Terrible Towel in 1996.

Cal U

(FROM PAGE ONE)

14) in the first half, the losers were 10 of 25 in the second half.

"If we can handle business Saturday at Edinboro, we'll probably share the championship with Indiana," said Vincent. "I don't like ties for the title but with this team it would be a big thing for us."

CAL CLIPS: Williams finished with 24 points and nine rebounds, both game highs. Smith added 17 points. Shaquetta Mance and Lindsay Johnson contributed 13 and 11 points, respectively. Crystal Andrews had 12 steals and eight assists ... Julie Molloy (16) and Kelly Ann Staudinger (15) were high for the Rock ... Indiana closes Saturday at home with Lock Haven (7-18, 2-9) ... The Vulcans will host a playoff game Tuesday.

TV

Empty nesters drift apart after long life together

Dear ABBY

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 35 years.

The first 30 were pretty much devoted to raising children.

Now that we are both retired and empty nesters, I realize just how focused our lives have been on family issues.

While I have developed many interests, "Fred," has none besides solitary activities.

He isn't interested in most of the things that I enjoy, but offers no alternatives.

Consequently, I've learned to make social plans that do not include him.

I do spend a good deal of time at home with him, but I am feeling increasingly detached.

I would like to have more of a life with Fred, but must I give up the relationships and activities that have provided a needed balance in my life in order to revive our marriage? — **MRS. COUCH POTATO**

DEAR MRS. POTATO: And what's to guarantee that if you give up your friendships and activities that your marriage will be "revived"?

Marriage is about compromise.

Before this situation goes any further, you and Fred should talk to a counselor about the state of your union.

People who are anti-social may be extremely narrow in their range of interests, or they could be depressed.

I'm advising you to find out now into which category your husband falls before you sever your social contacts.

DEAR ABBY: My 15-year-old daughter, "Amy," was recently dumped by text message, and I am extremely frustrated with how to address her tears and heartbreak.

Text messaging and instant messaging seem to be the only ways that young people communicate these days.

This young man took the coward's way out.

Amy and I have had several heated discussions about it, mostly ending with us agreeing to disagree.

My perspective is, when two people are ready to end a relationship, they should face the other person and talk about the reasons why it isn't working.

Hers is, "That's just the way we do things now."

Any thoughts? — **KATHY IN SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA**

DEAR KATHY: You are both right.

Communication is a skill that people learn through practice.

And I, too, am concerned that a generation of young people isn't learning to communicate face-to-face.

It's almost as though there is a fear of intimacy, and the signals that people send through facial expression and gesture are being lost because of over-dependence on technology.

Although "that's the way we do things now" may be your daughter's perspective, my question to her would be, "Now that you know how terrible being dumped that way feels, would you do it to somebody else?"

DEAR ABBY: When someone sneezes multiple times, do I have to "bless them" after every sneeze, at the end of a series of sneezes or only after the first sneeze? — **BLESSED OUT IN MENOMONEE FALLS, WIS.**

DEAR BLESSED OUT: It depends upon how superstitious you are.

The custom of "blessing" a person who sneezes originated during the Middle Ages, when people believed that when someone sneezed their souls left their bodies for an instant.

Saying, "God bless you" ensured that the soul would jump back in, rather than be "lost."

If you're really superstitious, then you should utter the blessing every time someone sneezes.

However, today most people say it only once - after the first sneeze.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Readers can e-mail Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or write to her at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

THURSDAY EVENING

MOVIES | TALK | NEWS | KIDS | SPORTS

FEB. 28, 2008

	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30	12AM	12:30	1AM	1:30	2AM	2:30
CBS (2) KDKA (7) WTRF (10) WTAJ	(2) (7) News (N)/ (10) WTAJ News at 6 (N)	(7) (10) CBS Evening News With Katie Couric (N)	(2) CBS Evening News-Couric/ (7) Entertainment/ (10) Inside	(2) The Insider (N)/ (7) Inside Edition/ (10) Two and a Half Men	Survivor: Micronesia -- Fans vs. Favorites "That's Baked, Barbecued and Fried!" One contestant creates a fake immunity idol. (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Goodbye & Good Luck" A suspect causes Sara to question her future.		Without a Trace "One Wrong Move" The team wonders if past mistakes have come back to haunt a missing ex-con.		(2) (7) News (N)/ (10) WTAJ News at 11 (N)	Late Show With David Letterman Amy Adams; Jamie Oliver; Liam Finn. (N)		The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson Jason Bateman. (N)		(2) Extra/ (7) The Insider/ (10) Everybody Loves Raymond "All, S.F."	(2) (10) Paid/ (7) That '70s Show Eric and Donna's first date.	(2) Paid/ (7) (10) CBS Up to the Minute (N)
ABC (4) WTAE (23) WATM	(4) News (N)/ (23) The Insider Mike Myers; Jim Carrey. (N)	ABC's World News With Charles Gibson (N)	(4) Inside Edition/ (23) Jeopardy! (N)	(4) Entertainment Tonight/ (23) Wheel of Fortune	Lost "Eggtown" Kate's need to get information out of the hostage may jeopardize relationships.		Lost "The Constant" Desmond experiences unexpected side effects. (N)		Eli Stone "One More Try" Eli gets a chance to amend a case that he won through questionable tactics. (N)		(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11 (N)/ (23) News (N)	Nightline (N)	Jimmy Kimmel Live Martin Lawrence. (N)		(4) Oprah Winfrey/ (23) Paid	(23) Paid	(4) The Kevin & Debbie Show; Skin Recovery/ (23) Springer	(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11
NBC (6) WJAC (9) WTOV (11) WPXI	News (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	(6) Entertainment Tonight Mike Myers; Jim Carrey. (N)/ (9) (11) Jeopardy! (N)	(6) Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (N)/ (9) (11) Wheel of Fortune (N)	The Office "Launch Party" The company's Web site launches.		The Celebrity Apprentice "The Money Shot" The teams must create a photo essay for a brand of bodywash. (N)		Lipstick Jungle "Chapter Four Bombay Highway" Wendy sets her sights on a film set in India. (N)		News (N)	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno Wanda Sykes; Bryan Cranston. (N)		Late Night With Conan O'Brien Natalie Portman; Robert Schimmel; James Blunt. (N)		Last Call With Carson Daly	Poker After Dark Patrick Antonius; Johnny Chan; Roland de Wolfe; Daniel Negreanu; Gus Hansen; John Juanda. (N)	
FOX (8) WWCP (53) WPGH	(8) The Simpsons/ (53) Two and a Half Men	(8) That '70s Show/ (53) Frasier	(8) The Simpsons/ (53) Two and a Half Men	Seinfeld The first 100 episodes.	American Idol Four singers are eliminated.		Don't Forget the Lyrics! (N)		(8) News (N)/ (53) Channel 11 News on FOX 53 at 10	(8) Seinfeld The police pick up Jerry and George.	(8) The King of Queens/ (53) Seinfeld	(8) Frasier "Party, Party"/ (53) Scrubs "My Cabbage"	(8) Cradle of Lies (2006)/ (53) Scrubs "My First Step"	(53) Paid	(53) Paid	(53) Paid	(8) Paid/ (53) Sex and the City	(8) Paid/ (53) Cheaters
(13) WQED	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Nightly Business Report	OnQ Magazine	Safe Harbor		Great Performances The New York Philharmonic performs music by Dvorák, Gershwin and Wagner. (N)				Charlie Rose (N)			OnQ Magazine	Tavis Smiley Garry Wills.	America's Ballroom Challenge Battle for the title.		American Masters "Pete Seeger: The Power of Song"	
(19) WPCW	The People's Court (N)		Everybody-Raymond	Everybody-Raymond	Smallville "Blue" Clark meets his biological mother.		Reaper "Ashes to Ashes"		The 10 O'Clock News	The Nightly Sports Call	Malcolm in the Middle	According to Jim	That '70s Show	King of the Hill	South Park "Pink Eye"	Paid	Paid	Paid
(22) WPMY	The Simpsons	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Family Guy	★★ Original Gangstas (1996)				TMZ (N)	Frasier	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Paid	Paid	Bernie Mac	My Wife-Kids	Half & Half	Half & Half
(40) WPCB	The 700 Club		Focus 4	F4 Generation	Bananas		7th St. Theater	Extreme Life	Heritage	Quick Study	CBN News	Richard and Lindsay Roberts	Joseph Prince		Focus 4	F4 Generation	Austin Awake	Born to Free
(59) WBGN	Temptation (N)	Temptation	Degrassi: Next	Reno 911!	The Nanny	Mad Abt. You	Poltergeist: The Legacy		Cold Squad		Reno 911!	Blind Date	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
A&E	Cold Case Files		CSI: Miami "Blood Brothers"		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		American Justice		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48	
ABCFAM	★★½ The Princess Diaries (2001)					★★½ The Princess Diaries (2001)					The 700 Club		Whose Line?	Whose Line?	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
AMC	★★★ Enter the Dragon (1973)				★★½ Murder by Numbers (2002)					Breaking Bad "Gray Matter"	★★ Species (1995)					Breaking Bad "Gray Matter"		Enemy Mine
ANPL	The Crocodile Hunter		Subtle as a Serpent		Grizzly Diaries		Growing Up... "Grizzly 2"		Animal Planet Heroes Phoenix		Grizzly Diaries		Growing Up... "Grizzly 2"		Animal Planet Heroes Phoenix		Subtle as a Serpent	
BBC	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		BBC World News America		Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		BBC World News America		Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares	
BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (N)			Black Carpet	The BET Honors				Rip the Runway		Malcolm-Eddie	Malcolm-Eddie	Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx	Comicview		BET Late	
BRAVO	Make Me a Supermodel		Project Runway		Project Runway		Project Runway		Make Me a Supermodel (N)		Make Me a Supermodel		Project Runway		Make Me a Supermodel		Make Me a Supermodel	
CMT	★ Broken Bridges (2006)			CMT Music	Gone Country		Gone Country	Gone Country	Gone Country	Gone Country	CMT Giants: Hank Williams, Jr. Musicians honor Williams.				Redneck Wed	Redneck Wed	CMT Music	
CNBC	Mad Money		Kudlow & Company		Fast Money		Deal or No Deal		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money		Deal or No Deal		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Paid	Paid
CNN	The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360	
COM	★★½ The Last Shot (2004)		Scrubs	Scrubs	Daily Show	Colbert Report	Futurama	South Park	South Park	Lil' Bush	Daily Show	Colbert Report	South Park	Lil' Bush	Daily Show	Colbert Report	Reel Comedy	Insomniac
CSPAN	House of Representatives				Tonight From Washington						Capital News Today						Today in Washington	
DISC	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	Bone Detectives (N)		How It's Made	How It's Made	Mega-Tsunamis		Americas Volcanoes		Bone Detectives		How It's Made	How It's Made	Mega-Tsunamis		Americas Volcanoes	
DISNEY	Han. Montana	Han. Montana	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Read It and Weep (2006)				That's-Raven	Life Derek	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	Replacements	Kim Possible	Emperor New	American Drgn	Buzz Lightyear	Timon-Pumbaa
E!	THS Hazing	Chelsea Lately	E! News (N)	The Daily 10	Fashion Police		Celebrity Plastic Surgery		Britney Spears: Fall		E! News	Chelsea Lately	The Daily 10	Girl Next Door	20 Richest Women		E! News	Chelsea Lately
ESPN	SportsCenter		College Basketball Notre Dame at Louisville.				College Basketball Teams TBA.				SportsCenter		NFL Live (N)	Gamenight	SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPNC	Stump-Schwab	Stump-Schwab	College Basketball CIAA Tournament Quarterfinal -- Teams TBA.				College Basketball CIAA Tournament Quarterfinal -- Teams TBA.				College Basketball CIAA Tournament Quarterfinal -- Teams TBA.				AWA Wrestling Championship		Cheap Seats	Arliss
ESPN2	NASCAR Now	Rome-Burning	College Basketball St. Louis at St. Joseph's.				College Basketball Michigan State at Wisconsin.				Gamenight	SportsCenterU	NASCAR Now	2007 World Series of Poker		PBA Bowling Denny's World Championship.		
EWTN	Beauty-Alive	Time Rebuild	Daily Mass: Our Lady		Life on the Rock		Parable	Holy Rosary	Back Stage	The Pure Life	Web of Faith		Daily Mass: Our Lady		Life on the Rock		Parable	The Pure Life
FNC	Special Report		Fox Report-Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity & Colmes		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity & Colmes		On the Record-Van Susteren		Special Report	
FOOD	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Emeril Live Asian recipes.		Good Eats	Bobby Flay	Iron Chef America		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Good Eats	Unwrapped	Iron Chef America		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Good Eats	Unwrapped
FSN	Final Score	SportsBeat	NHL Hockey Pittsburgh Penguins at Boston Bruins.					FSN Live	In My Words	Final Score	College Basketball Washington State at California.				In Focus	Best Damn Sports Show Period		Final Score
FX	★★½ Shallow Hal (2001)				★★★ Coach Carter (2005) A high-school basketball coach pushes his team to excel.						★★★ Coach Carter (2005) A high-school basketball coach pushes his team to excel.						Paid	Paid
GOLF	Post Game	LPGA Tour Golf		Golf-Academy	Golf-Academy	Top 10	Top 10	PGA Tour Golf Honda Classic -- First Round.				19th Hole	Golf Central	Ultimate Matches				Golf Central
GSN	Lingo	Whammy	Weakest Link		Who Wants to Be a Millionaire		Family Feud	Family Feud	How Much	Chain Reaction	Lingo	Whammy	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire		Trivia Trap	Now You See	High Stakes Poker	
HALL	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Walker, Texas Ranger		Walker, Texas Ranger		Back to You and Me (2005)				Murder, She Wrote		Murder, She Wrote		Walker, Texas Ranger		Walker, Texas Ranger	
HGTV	Small Space	If Walls Could	House Worth?	House Hunters	Designed-Sell	Carter Can (N)	Divine Design	My Kitchen	House Hunters	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Over Head	Designed-Sell	Carter Can	Divine Design	My Kitchen	House Hunters	House Hunters
HIST	History Rocks "The '80s"		Modern Marvels "Magnets"		Modern Marvels (N)		Gangland "Race Wars"		Ancient Discoveries		Modern Marvels		Modern Marvels		Gangland "Race Wars"		Ancient Discoveries	
LIFE	Reba	Reba	Still Standing	Still Standing	Reba	Reba	★★ Miss Congeniality (2000)				Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Frasier	Frasier	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	The Nanny	Paid
MSNBC	Tucker		Hardball		Countdown-Olbermann		Live With Dan Abrams		Inv.: Vampire Killings		Unlocking the Past		Countdown-Olbermann		Inv.: Vampire Killings		Unlocking the Past	
MTV	Parent Control	Parent Control	Parent Control	Parent Control	Parent Control	Parent Control	America's Best Dance Crew		America's Best Dance Crew		Real World-Road Rules		America's Best Dance Crew		Domenico's	True Life		Real World-Rd
NICK	iCarly	iCarly	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101	SpongeBob	Drake & Josh	George Lopez	George Lopez	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.
OXY	Snapped	Snapped	Snapped	Captured	Snapped	Snapped	Snapped	Snapped	Snapped Ten Binion.		Bad Girls Club	Abbey	The Tyra Banks Show		★★ Proof (2005)			
PCN	PCN Tours		PCN Call-In "Prison Issues"		Journalists Roundtable		PA Senate Appropriations Committee-Hearings		PA Senate Appropriations Committee 2008-09 Budget Hearings						PA Senate Appropriations Committee 2008-09 Budget Hearings			
PCNC	Lynn Cullen Show Talk show.		News	Aesthetic Med	NightTalk With Ann Devlin		News		NightTalk With Ann Devlin		Honsberger	Fedko Fone	News	News	News	Paid	NightTalk With Ann Devlin	
SCIFI	Stargate SG-1 "Crystal Skull"		★★½ The Arrival (1996)				Living Hell (2008)				★★ Fire in the Sky (1993)				Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	The X-Files "Orison"	
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		TNA iMPACT! (N)				Pros vs. Joes (N)		MANswers	MANswers	MXC	Whacked Out	The Shield "Slipknot"	
TBS	Friends	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Friends	Friends	★★ National Security (2003)				Sex and City	Sex and City	★★ National Security (2003)				What's the Worst	
TCM	★★★★ Fiddler on the Roof (1971)				★★★★ A Man for All Seasons (1966)				★★★½ Doctor Zhivago (1965) A Russian doctor experiences the Bolshevik Revolution.								Seance on a Wet Afternoon	
TLC	Property Ladder		Rides An off-road competition.		American Chopper		American Chopper (N)		LA Ink Kat consults a doctor.		American Chopper		American Chopper		LA Ink Kat consults a doctor.		Rides An off-road competition.	
TNT	Law & Order "Return"		Law & Order "Overworked"		NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at San Antonio Spurs.					NBA Basketball Miami Heat at Los Angeles Lakers.					Inside the NBA		The X-Files "Our Town"	
TOON	Scooby-Doo	Scooby-Doo	Codename	Camp Lazlo	Gym Partner	Johnny Test	Grim Advent.	Courage-Dog	Ed, Edd	Naruto	Family Guy	Family Guy	Robot Chicken	Full-Alchemist	Ghost in Shell	Eureka 7	Family Guy	Family Guy
TRAVEL	Seven Wonders		Michael Palin's New Europe		World's Best Mega Structures		Alaska's Arctic Wildlife		Alaskan Wild		Michael Palin's New Europe		World's Best Mega Structures		Alaska's Arctic Wildlife		Alaskan Wild	
TRUTV	World's Wildest Police Videos		Cops	Cops	Speeders	Speeders	Most Shocking		Bait Car	Bait Car	Forensic Files	Hwood Heat	Speeders	Speeders	Most Shocking		Bait Car	Bait Car
TVLAND	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	★★★ In the Line of Fire (1993) A veteran Secret Service agent battles a vicious assassin.						M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Just Shoot Me	Just Shoot Me	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Sanford & Son	The Jeffersons
USA	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: SVU		Psych		★★★ Intolerable Cruelty	
VH1	Scott Baio	My Fair Brady	Rock of Love-Bret Michaels		Rock of Love-Bret Michaels		Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew		Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew		Free Radio	Britneys Shock	Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew		Salt N Pepa	My Fair Brady	Rock of Love-Bret Michaels	
VS.	Quest for One	Dangerous	Real Hunting	Escape to Wild	Turkey Rev.	Hunter	Legends of the Ring				Turkey Rev.	Hunter	Legends of the Ring				Real Hunting	Escape to Wild
WE	★★ Danielle Steel's Heartbeat (1993)				★★★ Mermaids (1990)					20/20 "Alive"		20/20 "Bad Girls 1"		20/20 "Tabloid 2"		20/20 "Career Girls"		Danielle Steel
WGN	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	Home Videos	★★ Conspiracy Theory (1997)					WGN News at Nine (N)		Scrubs	Scrubs	Corner Gas	Becker	America's Funniest Home Vi		The Steve Wilkos Show	
ENC	★★★ Romancing the Stone (1984)				★★★ The Hand That Rocks the Cradle (1992)						★★★ Independence Day (1996) Earthlings vs. evil aliens in 15-mile-wide ships.			★★ The Guardian (2006)				
HBO	★½ Code Name: The Cleaner		★★½ The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift		10 000 BC-1st		In Treatment	In Treatment	The Wire Bunk returns a favor.		Cathouse		★★★ Little Children (2006) A housewife has an affair with a stay-at-home dad.					American B
MAX	★★★ The Devil Wears Prada (2006)		★★★ Die Hard 2 (1990) Police hero spots military terrorists at D.C. airport.						★ The Hitcher (2007)			The Best Sex Ever 7: Touch Me (2004)		★★ Final Destination 3 (2006)				El Metodo
SHOW	★★ School for Seduction		The Breakup Artist (2004)		★★½ The Mirror Has Two Faces (1996)						The L Word		★★ Basic Instinct 2 (2006)				★★½ Jackass: Number Two	
STARZ	★½ The Grudge 2 (2006)		★½ Are We Done Yet? (2007)				★★½ Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby (2006)				★★★ The Rock (1996)				★★★ High Fidelity (2000)			
TMC	Conversations	★★ The Pink Panther (2006)			★½ Black Christmas (2006)				★½ See No Evil (2006)			★★ Private Lessons (1981)			★★ The Weather Man (2005)			Citizen Verdict

FEATURES

Frugal Living

Twenty signs of frugal fun

Sara **NOEL**

Some folks just don't get it. Frugality can be fun! Even if you're not frugal, you probably know someone who is. Read on for a little frugal insights submitted by readers. We're kindred spirits! Let me know if any of these signs remind you of anyone you know.

You know you're frugal when:

1. You refuse to buy something because you know you can make it yourself. Sometimes it's how you get your best ideas. When you do buy something, you don't think twice about negotiating for a better price.

2. You take your camera out to take pictures and your children ask if you're selling more stuff on eBay.

3. Unwrapping presents at a party or holiday, one of your kids yells, "Hey, be careful with that wrapping and those bows. Mom wants to reuse them." You smile because you're on your third year with the same bows.

4. You rent videos and eat out only when you have a coupon.

5. You've got your spouse "trained" to the point that he or she is excited when a purchase comes with free coupons attached.

6. You're looking at an old onion bag thinking, "What else can I do with this?"

7. You get gifts like toilet paper for your birthday.

8. You cut the empty tube of toothpaste open and get two to three more brushings out of it, save the wax bags out of cereal boxes to marinate chicken and put cheap shampoo and condiments in brand-name bottles.

9. You're still wearing clothes from 20 years ago and grow your hair long to save money.

10. Your quilts are like memories: That piece of fabric was a pair of pajamas; that one was inherited when grandma died; that one is also in a nephew's baby quilt.

11. Your son thinks that McDonald's means EI-EI-OOOOO and not hamburgers.

12. You mix the last bit of your lipstick with Vaseline to make it last longer, and half your bottles are upside down to make sure you use every last bit. You use dryer sheets ripped in thirds, laundry detergent diluted with water and half the recommended amount of dishwasher detergent.

13. You scold your husband for throwing away the soap slivers that you were saving to make a "new" bar of soap.

14. Excitement is figuring out how to line dry when it's greater than 75 percent humidity or snowing.

15. Your hamburgers are 50 percent oatmeal, and no one knows.

16. Your friends will start a conversation with "I know it's not frugal, but see what I bought?"

17. People come and ask you, "Is this a good deal?"

18. You can price out food by the meal and unit in your head.

19. You come home from work to a freezing house in February and find the cat under the covers because you haven't turned the heat on.

20. Your chapstick is causing your lips to bleed as you push the sharp edges of the container against your lips, trying to use up every last bit of it.

Sara Noel is the owner of Frugal Village (www.frugalvillage.com), a Web site that offers practical, money-saving strategies for everyday living. To send tips, comments or questions, write to Sara Noel, c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10016, or e-mail sara@frugalvillage.com

ODDS & ENDS

Connecticut woman gets 2 years probation for groping Santa at mall

DANBURY, Conn. (AP) — A woman accused of groping Santa Claus at a Connecticut mall won't have to serve any jail time if she stays out of trouble.

Sandrama Lamy has been sentenced under an accelerated rehabilitation program that will wipe her record clean if she completes two years of probation.

Danbury Superior Court Judge Susan Reynolds on Wednesday also ordered the 33-year-old to stay away from the Danbury Fair Mall.

In December, Lamy was charged with fourth-degree sexual assault and breach of peace for allegedly touching Santa inappropriately while sitting on his lap at the mall.

CALENDAR WATCH

Friday

■ Donora High School Class of 1952 meeting, Duke's Restaurant, Donora, 1:15 p.m.

■ Clothing ministry, Fellowship Baptist Church, Monessen, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

■ Christ of God Ministries presents "Champions in Christ," Donora Senior Center, 6:30 p.m.

■ Bake sale order deadline, Our Lady of the Valley Parish, St. Dominic Church, Donora, (724) 379-5845 or (724) 379-7382.

■ Fish fry, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Monongahela, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

■ Fish fry, St. John Church, Perryopolis, noon to 6 p.m.

■ Fish fry, Epiphany of Our Lord Church, Monessen, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

■ Fish dinner, St. Michael Church, Elizabeth Township, 4 to 7 p.m.

■ Fish fry, St. Joseph Church, Roscoe, 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

■ Fish fry and fried dough sale, St. John Episcopal Church, Donora, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

■ Fish fry, Brownsville Senior Center, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

■ Fish fry, Charleroi Knights of Columbus, 2:30 to 6:30 p.m.

■ Fish fry, Calvary United Presbyterian Church, Donora, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

■ Fish fry, Belle Vernon Volunteer Fire Department, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

■ Fish fry, St. Spyridon Hellenic Center, Monessen, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

■ Fish fry, Rostraver Central VFC, Rostraver Township, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

■ Fish fry, Rostraver VFD No. 1, Webster, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

■ Fish fry, St. John Social Center, Perryopolis, noon to 6 p.m.

■ Fish fry, American Legion, Donora, noon to 6 p.m.

■ Fish fry, Monongahela 455 Elks, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m.

Memorial Tributes For...

Easter

IF YOU WISH TO PAY TRIBUTE....

For your convenience in selecting a suitable memorial, a number of verses have been printed below. One of these may perfectly portray your feelings. However, you may express any sentiment in your own words, or stop in at our Eastgate office and select a verse from our Memorial Book. If you prefer to publish a picture with the verse, please contact the classified department by phone at 724-684-5200 for further information.

Special Easter Memorial Page To Be Published
Saturday, March 22, 2008

1.
You are not forgotten, loved one,
Nor will you ever be.
As long as life and memory last,
We shall remember thee.
We miss you now, our hearts are sore,
As time goes on we miss you more.
Your loving smile, your gentle face
No one can fill your vacant place.

2.
They say time heals all sorrows,
And helps us to forget,
But time so far has only proved
How much we miss you yet.
God gave us strength to fight it
And courage to bear the blow,
But what it meant to lose you,
No one will ever know.

3.
You have taken your long last journey
In the beautiful ship, called Rest,
Away from this world of sorrow
To the home of Eternal Rest.

4.
Today recalls sad memories
Of our dear one gone to rest
And the ones who think of you today,
Are the ones who love you best.

5.
Within our hearts we'll always keep
A special place for you
And try to do our best to live
As you would want us to.
We loved you so, we miss you,
In our memory you are near
Loved, remembered and longed for,
Always treasured with love sincere.

6.
Your life is a beautiful memory,
Your death is a silent grief,
You sleep in God's beautiful garden,
In the sunshine of perfect peace.

7.
Wonderful memories woven in gold,
This is the picture we tenderly hold.
Deep in our hearts - memory is kept,
To love, cherish and never forget.

8.
Our hearts are heavy,
Our thoughts are all of thee,
How we really miss you, dear,
No one but God can see.
Some say time heals an aching heart,
But, no, it isn't true,
For many long years have passed
And our hearts still ache for you.

9.
Memories are treasures no one can steal,
Death leaves a heartache no one can heal.
Loved dearly in life and living yet,
In the hearts of the ones who will never forget.

10.
No one knows how much we miss you,
No one knows the bitter pain
We have suffered since we lost you,
Life has never been the same.
In our hearts your memory lingers,
Sweetly tender, fond and true,
There is not a day, dear loved one
That we do not think of you.

11.
Tonight the stars are gleaming
Upon a lonely grave,
Where sleeps one without dreaming
The one we loved but could not save.
The rolling streams of life pass on,
But still the vacant chair,
Recalls the smile, the love, the voice,
Of the one who once sat there.

12.
Nothing can ever take away
The love a heart holds dear;
Fond memories linger every day
Remembrance keeps them near.

13.
As we loved you, so we miss you.
In our hearts you are ever near,
Loved, remembered, longed for always
Bringing many a silent tear.

14.
Time takes away the edge of grief,
But memory turns back every leaf,
Sunshine fades and shadows fall,
But sweet remembrance outlasts all.

15.
Gone, dear loved one, gone forever,
How we miss your smiling face,
But you left us to remember,
None on earth can take your place.
A happy home we once enjoyed,
How sweet the memory still,
But death has left a loneliness,
The world can never fill.

16.
The depth of sorrow we cannot tell,
Of the loss of one we loved so well,
And while you sleep, a peaceful sleep,
Your memory we shall always keep.

17.
I formed a mental picture
Of the one I loved so dear,
He (she) went to meet his (her) Maker
Without a trace of fear.
Sometime I hope to join him (her),
What a meeting that will be,
When we are again united
Beyond life's sea of dreams.

18.
Our hearts still ache with sadness,
Our eyes shed many tears,
God only knows how much we miss you
At the end of these long years.
And when evening shadows are falling,
And we are sitting all alone,
There comes to us a longing,
If only you could come home.

19.
Peacefully sleeping, resting at last,
His (her) weary troubles and trails past.
In silence he (she) suffered,
In patience he (she) bore
'Til God called him (her) home
To suffer no more."

20.
When links of life are broken
And loved ones have to part,
It leaves a wound that never heals
An ever aching heart.
So it does not take a special day,
To bring him (her) to our minds,
For days that we do not think of him (her)
Are very hard to find.

21.
Within our store memories,
He (she) holds a place apart,
For no one else can ever be
More cherished in our hearts.

An Easter Tribute
In Loving Memory Of
Helen M. Doe

Our beloved mother & grandmother, who passed away June 14, 1995.
No one knows how much we miss you.
No one knows the bitter pain we have suffered since we lost you.
Life has never been the same. In our hearts your memory lingers, sweetly tender, fond and true, there is not a day, dear loved one, that we do not think of you.
Sadly missed by your family

THIS SIZE 2X3
WITH OR WITHOUT PHOTO
$45.00

THIS SIZE 1X2
$25.00

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE
1x2½.....$27.00
1x3.....$30.00

An Easter Tribute
In Loving Memory Of
Helen M. Doe
Our beloved mother & grandmother, who passed away June 14, 1995.
No one knows how much we miss you. No one knows the bitter pain we have suffered since we lost you. Life has never been the same. In our hearts your memory lingers, sweetly tender, fond and true. There is not a day, dear loved one, that we do not think of you.
Sadly missed by your Family

USE THIS ORDER FORM - MAIL TODAY

In loving memory of (my or our)
_____
Name _____
Passed Away (date) _____
Verse Number _____
Sadly missed by _____
_____
_____
Enclosed is $ _____ for one or $ _____ for two or more (minus $1.00 from each memorial if two or more)
CASH _____ CHECK _____ MONEY ORDER _____
If you prefer, you may be billed for your memoriam.
Billing: (Name) _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____

If you want to write your own verse, send it with this order form.
We will calculate the cost and advise you by telephone.

MAIL TO... THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT
EASTGATE 19
MONESSEN, PA 15062
OR CALL 724-684-5200

YOU MAY REQUEST ARTWORK AT NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE SUCH AS..

PLEASE ADD ART _____

DEADLINE
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 5PM

The Valley Independent

VALLEY GRAPEVINE

American Red Cross offering classes

The American Red Cross will offer the following classes at its Washington County location, 524 East Maiden Street:

First Aid, March 13 and April 10, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Standard First Aid with CPR/AED – Adult and Child Plus Infant CPR – 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., March 1 and April 26

Standard First Aid with CPR/AED – Adult - Wednesday 5:30 to 10 p.m., Thursdays, 5:30 to 9:30 pm., March 12, April 9, March 13 and April 10

CPR/AED-Adult – 5:30 to 10 p.m., and 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., March 12, April 9 and April 29

CPR/AED for Professional Rescuer – 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., March 19

To register, call (724) 222-4750.

St. Mary's Ladies Guild to meet

St. Mary's Ladies Guild will meet 1 p.m. Tuesday in the church auditorium. The executive board meets at 12:15 p.m.

Info meeting set at Geibel

Families are invited to an informational meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday for grades 9 through 12 or March 6 for grades 7 and 8 at the Geibel School cafeteria. The meeting will cover course registration, service hours and extra-curricular activities. Coaches and moderators will be on hand to discuss specific qualifications of their sport. Financial assistance will be explained along with bus transportation and volunteer opportunities. Parents should bring copies of the student's 2007-2008 academic progress. Light refreshments will be available. For information, call (724) 628-5600, extension 210/206 or e-mail at info@geibelcatholic.org.

Bi-Polar Support Group to meet

The Bi-Polar and Affective Disorders Support Group will meet 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at St. Michael Orthodox Church, 1201 Patton Ave., Monessen. For information, call Kathy at (724) 326-4183.

Senior Recognition Dinner scheduled

The Antioch Baptist Church of Belle Vernon will hold its annual Senior Recognition Dinner 1:30 p.m. March 16 at the Ponderosa Steak House, Rostraver Township. Reservation deadline is March 1 by calling (724) 684-9686.

NAACP plans meeting Tuesday

Roy McLaughlin, manager of Lowes in Uniontown, and Stanford A. Webb, employment recruiter of the Pennsylvania State Police, will be at the Mon Valley Branch NAACP business meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Mon Valley Community Health Center, Eastgate 8, Monessen, fourth floor, boardroom A. Anyone interested in employment is invited to the meeting.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: G equals V

"LBL ICJSO KYWWJ ABC KTNK YGYMAKTSXD SJ BU NXZ MBOU ICJSO KYWWJ ABC KTNK SK'J XBK, PCK KTNK ABC ONX OTNXDY SK." - PBXB

PREVIOUS SOLUTION – "To forgive is not to forget." - Mahatma Gandhi
"Nobody ever forgets where he buried a hatchet." - Kin Hubbard

COMICS

CATHY® by Cathy Guisewite

GARFIELD® by Jim Davis

ARLO and JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson

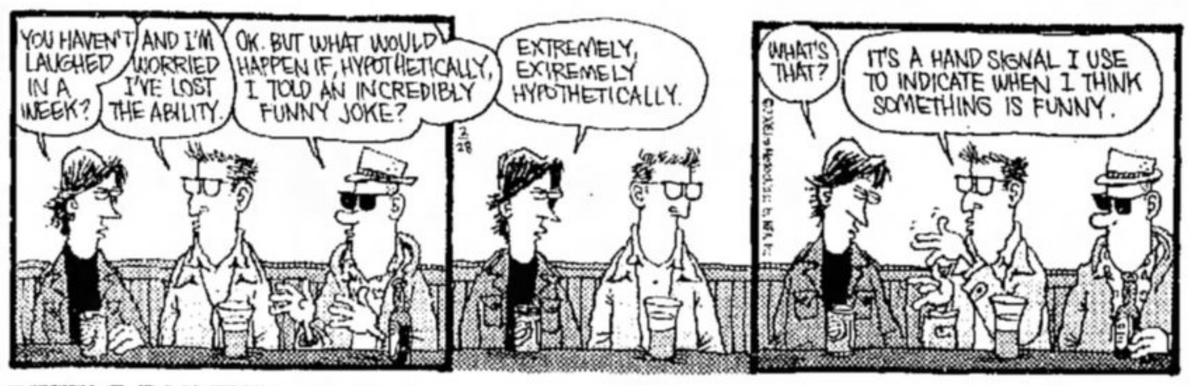
TOMORROW IS LEAP DAY!
DID YOU KNOW LEAP YEAR IS ALSO KNOWN AS AN "INTERCALARY YEAR"?
AN "ENTER CALORIE YEAR"?
YES
I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.

Classic PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz

© 1995 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.
"PLEASE, SIR," REPLIED OLIVER, "I WANT SOME MORE."
HE COULD SAY THAT.. HE DIDN'T HAVE A DISH IN HIS MOUTH..

MONTY® by Jim Meddick

E-Mail: JimMeddick@aol.com


YOU HAVEN'T LAUGHED IN A WEEK?
AND I'M WORRIED I'VE LOST THE ABILITY.
OK. BUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF, HYPOTHETICALLY, I TOLD AN INCREDIBLY FUNNY JOKE?
EXTREMELY, EXTREMELY HYPOTHETICALLY.
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S A HAND SIGNAL I USE TO INDICATE WHEN I THINK SOMETHING IS FUNNY.

HI & LOIS® by Mort Walker and Dick Browne

MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST BREAK UP
WE CAN'T
WHY NOT?
NOYZ
NOBODY WILL WONDER WHATEVER HAPPENED TO US IF WE DON'T GET FAMOUS FIRST.
2-28

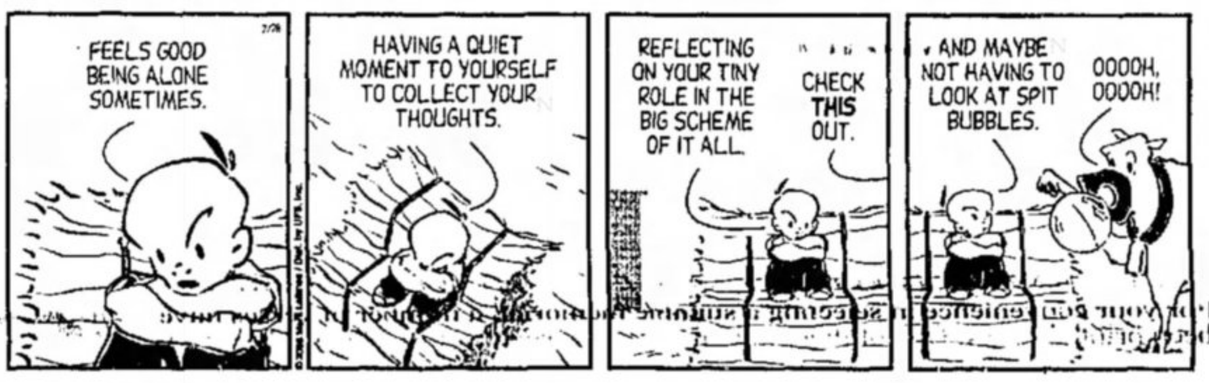
BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker

HIS GOURMET FOOD MAGAZINE JUST CAME IN THE MAIL
2-28
HE'S THE ONLY ONE I KNOW WHO NEEDS A BIB JUST TO READ ABOUT FOOD!
FOOD
GREG T MORT WALKER

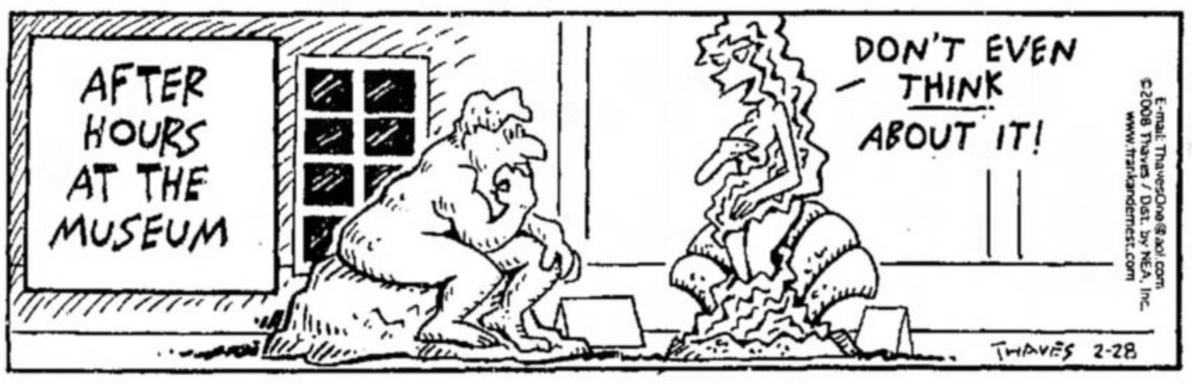
BORN LOSER® by Art Sansom

GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr

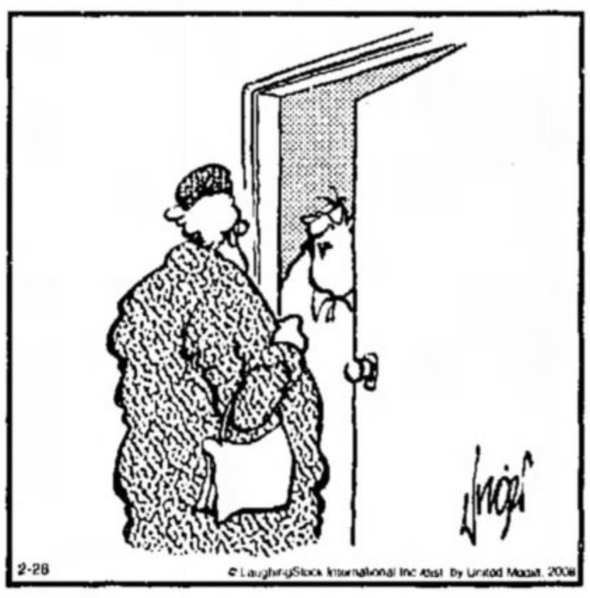
COW AND BOY® by Mark Leiknes


FEELS GOOD BEING ALONE SOMETIMES.
HAVING A QUIET MOMENT TO YOURSELF TO COLLECT YOUR THOUGHTS.
REFLECTING ON YOUR TINY ROLE IN THE BIG SCHEME OF IT ALL.
CHECK THIS OUT.
AND MAYBE NOT HAVING TO LOOK AT SPIT BUBBLES.
OOOOH, OOOOH!

FRANK and ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



HERMAN® by Jim Unger



KIT'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright

kitncarlyle@comcast.net
IT'S TIME TO WAKE HER! THAT SMILE MEANS SHE'S DREAMING ABOUT HAVING FUN SOMEWHERE AFTER FORGETTING TO FEED ME BEFORE SHE LEFT!
2-28
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SOUP TO NUTZ™ by Rick Stromoski

WHERE'S SPARKLE?
HE KICKED THE BUCKET SO WE FLUSHED HIM.
SO WHERE DID HE END UP?
HE WENT TO HEAVEN, STUPID..
HEY UP THERE... PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF SPARKLE!
-StroMoski-

"We were just toying with the idea of going to see a movie. Can you come back in about three minutes?"

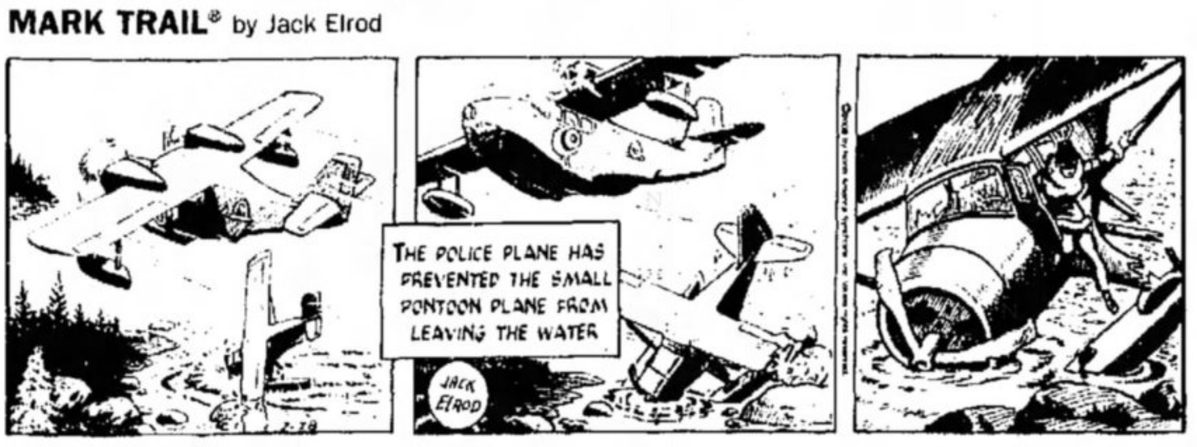
BIG NATE® by Lincolin Peirce

HOWDY, GENTS!
UH. WHAT'S WITH YOU?
YEAH, HOW COME YOU'RE STANDING SO WEIRD?
MRS. CZERWICKI WANTS ME TO WORK ON MY BODY LANGUAGE!
IF I CHANGE THE WAY I STAND AND WALK, IT'LL CHANGE THE WAY EVERYBODY LOOKS AT ME!
RIGHT. INSTEAD OF JUST LOOKING, THEY'LL BE STARING.
HEY, NATE! ARE YOU WEARING A TRAINING BRA?!?
SNICKER!
HA HA HA HA

ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue

HOLD UP THERE, ARLO! WHAT DID YOU FIND?
I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT IS, BUT IT SURE IS PRETTY!
THAT'S IT!! THAT'S TH' RING WE WERE LOOKIN' FOR, FOOZY!
2-28

MARK TRAIL® by Jack Elrod



THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Garage jobs
6 Glistened in the light
11 City near Syracuse
12 Domesticates
13 U of F athletes
15 Tabby treat
16 More frilly
18 Traveler's stop
19 College maj.
21 Santa — winds
22 Masculine principle
23 Oater backdrop
25 Tank
28 Rubber-stamps
30 Work as a tailor
31 Geisha's tie
32 Itch
33 Boot liner
35 Scarlett's mother
37 Miners dig it
38 Mystique
40 "Butch Cassidy" girl
41 Ski lift
42 19th letter of the alphabet
43 Time to celebrate
46 Alley denizen
48 Roof parts
50 Began a voyage
54 Relish maliciously
55 Trawler gear
56 Dispatches an e-mail
57 Ringlet

DOWN

1 Carry wearily
2 Ms. Hagen of films
3 Fragment
4 Green science
5 — Lee cakes
6 Black hole, once
7 Fashion accessory
8 All, in combos
9 No, on the Rhine
10 Cable channel
14 Fleece
15 Come to a halt
17 Like some deeds (2 wds.)
19 Pie pro
20 Foolish plus
22 Toy on a string (hyph.)
24 Overwhelm
25 Battery units
26 Is a party to
27 Ike's ex
29 Fitness center
34 Rest stop sight
36 More wary
39 Leather punches
43 Future turtles
44 Caesar's farewell
45 Deep black
46 Wagers
47 Toward sunup
49 Young chap
51 Recline
52 Coast Guard off.
53 — Moines, Iowa

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	O	L	L	S			V	A	C	A	T	E
A	R	O	U	N	D		A	I	R	I	E	R
P	A	S	T	O	R		L	L	A	M	A	S
			E	W	E		I	S	M			
	W	E	S		A	D	D		M	U	D	
A	R	N		W	R	Y		B	E	G	U	N
S	E	T		E	Y	E		A	D	A	G	E
K	A	R	M	A		I	S	T		N	O	M
S	T	E	A	K		N	T	H		D	U	O
	H	E	R		E	G	O		E	A	T	
			K	E	A		R	A	P			
A	D	M	I	T	S		E	L	O	P	E	S
N	U	A	N	C	E		D	E	C	E	N	T
T	H	I	G	H	S			S	H	A	D	Y

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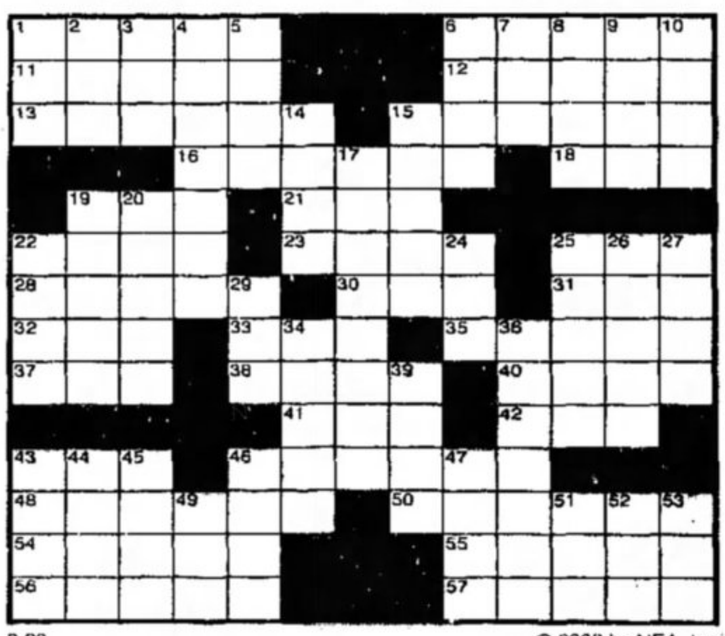

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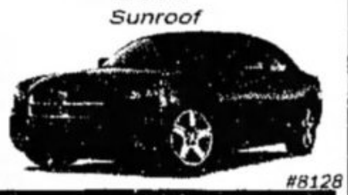
Sunroof

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8012A	2006 JEEP LIBERTY (Certified)	$13,640
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7411A	2005 DODGE RAM QUAD 4X4	$15,990
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B049A	2004 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS	$8,850
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B030A	2003 FORD MUSTANG	$7,450
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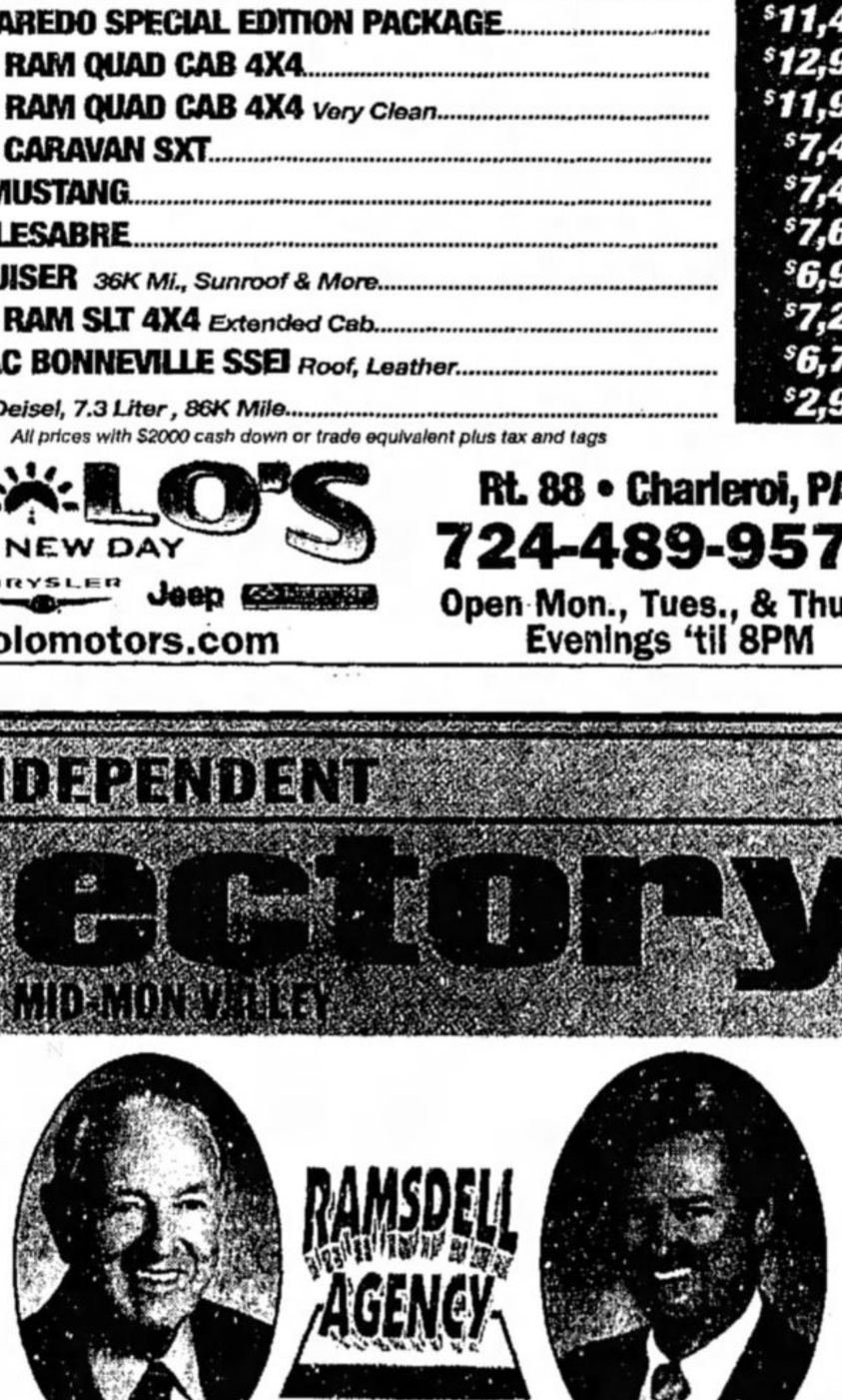

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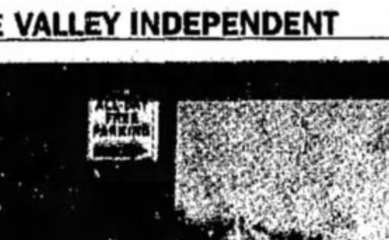
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday



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Part-time position, approximately 25 hrs./week. Assist district managers with the delivery of newspapers to subscribers on routes that temporarily have no carrier. Must possess valid PA driver's license and reliable vehicle. Hourly rate plus mileage. Applications available at The Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062 or email your resume to lhutchison@tribweb.com

ELECTRICIAN (Industrial)
Therm-O-Rock East, Inc. a manufacturing company located in New Eagle, PA, is seeking a full-time Electrician. This position is responsible for the installation and repair of electrical systems, instrumentation and motor starters, drive systems, pumps, controls and trouble shooting preventative maintenance of electrical and mechanical components of industrial equipment. To be considered, a candidate must be a high school graduate, possess a minimum 3 to 5 years current job experience as an electrician in a manufacturing facility, and be able to work independently. Salary commensurate upon experience. Please send resume to: Therm-O-Rock East, Inc., Attn: H.R. Dept., P.O. Box 429, New Eagle, PA 15067. No phone calls please. Drug free workplace. EOE M/F/D/V.

1000/GENERAL

COOK part-time, flexible hrs. for American Croatian Citizens Club, Donora. Call after 4pm 724-379-4871

COOK- experienced. dinner- 5-6hrs/day. Call or stop by for application, Teddy's Tavern, 1305 Axton St., Belle Vernon. 724-929-5971.

ESTIMATOR
Needed for machine/fab/weld job shop. Must demonstrate strong manufacturing and repair experience in a shop environment. Ability to work closely with others, prioritize to meet deadlines and interact with customers. Position offers competitive wage and excellent benefit package including 401k plan, medical, dental, vision, vacation and paid holidays. Apply in person or send resume to: SMS Millcraft, 750 Manifold Road, Washington, PA 15301.

FLOWER SHOP help wanted. Must work weekends. Those interested please call 724-684-4211

Full-Time
- COOK
- WAITRESS
- HOUSEKEEPING

Part-Time
- HOSTESS

--Apply in Person--
Belle Vernon Holiday Inn

MAINTENANCE Position. Part-time M-F 8am-2pm. Duties include landscape, janitorial, painting, etc. Please call after 5pm 724-483-1600 and leave message.

MH/MR Support Staff
Laurel Highlands Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization that supports persons with MH/MR developmental disabilities, is currently seeking part-time and full-time support staff to work in our community homes in the West Newton, Turkeytown Rd., New Stanton, and Elizabeth areas. No experience is necessary. Paid training. Must be at least 18 years of age and have valid PA driver's license. Starting rate is $8.63/hour with benefits after 90 days, increase to $8.86/hr. after 6 months. EOE. Call ONLY Mon.-Fri., 9-3pm. 412-825-9141.

1000/GENERAL

LABORERS wanted for poured concrete foundation co. Full-time. 5 ½ days per week. PA driver's license & transportation. Drug test. Apply in person 734 Happy Hollow Rd., Elizabeth, PA 412-384-3000.

NIGHT CREW Part-Time
Needed at Giant Eagle, Tri County Plaza, Belle Vernon. Hours are 10:30pm-7am. Previous retail or grocery experience a plus. Call: 1-877-EAGLEJOB

NOTICE TO READERS:
While work-at-home and other informational advertising is often legitimate, we advise readers to fully investigate the background of any company before paying a fee. If an offer sounds "too good to be true", it probably is. Proceed with caution if you are asked to send money or in calling 900 numbers. All phone numbers prefixed by "900" are charged to the caller on a per minute or per call basis. The Valley Independent makes every effort to qualify these charges for the reader. Remember, if you have any doubts, investigate!

PERSONNEL COORDINATOR HR ASSISTANT
Full service Human Resource Staffing Company located in Southpointe (Canonsburg) is looking for outgoing, assertive applicant responsible for continuing the growth of our staffing industry. Develop accounts by matching needs of clients with the right applicant. Use of inside sales processes to deepen relationships, recruit and retain skilled applicants. Ability to problem seek and solve, work well under pressure, set priorities, follow up and follow through. Software knowledge in Windows, Word, Data Entry and Outlook. Perform applicant screenings, interviews, orientations and ultimately placement. Attend job fairs, safety meetings and offsite recruitments. Business-business casual dress working 8am-5pm M-F. Interested applicants please submit resume w/salary requirements:

cbuell@greggservices.com
EOE/MF

1000/GENERAL

Real Estate Career Seminar Schedule
Coldwell Banker Tri County Realty
Rostraver Twp. and Washington
Join us for a free information seminar!
Call for reservations:
Rostraver 724-929-8866
Washington 724-222-4225

ALL SEMINARS BEGIN AT 10AM

Rostraver	Washington
March 7	March 8
April 12	April 10

Call Classifieds 684-2613 684-2612

4100/PERSONALS

1000/GENERAL

NOTARY- part-time, days & evenings. Computer exp. Detail oriented, outgoing. Finleyville. 724-348-7610

PRODUCTION LINE
Therm-O-Rock East, Inc. headquartered in New Eagle, PA, manufacturer of Industrial Ore Pyroprocessing and Horticultural Products, have full-time production line employment opportunities available. Interested individuals are to apply in person or mail to: Therm-O-Rock East, Inc., Attn: H.R. Dept., P.O. Box 429, New Eagle, PA 15067. Individuals possessing previous manufacturing or forklift experience are encouraged to apply. Paid weekly wages, shift differential, 401(k) plan, paid vacation, and internal advancement opportunities exist. Drug free workplace. EOE. M/F/D/V.

4100/PERSONALS

1000/GENERAL

OPERATOR- heavy equipment, for local construction co. Call between 8:30am-4pm 724-222-8518

NURSES AIDE
Full-time, Midnight Shift
In Monessen
Call 724-684-8170

PROGRAM ASSISTANT to provide a caring, family-like environment in the Belle Vernon area. Responsible for assisting with the day to day operations of a group home. All shifts available. Call to schedule interview, 724-929-8137. Serious inquiries only please. E.O.E.

SALES Associates PT & FT. Competitive wage, sales incentives avail. Customer service/retail exp. preferred. Apply in person Cal Cuthbert Pools 733 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon, PA.

AT BREAKFAST IN YOUR RECLINER AT YOUR MOUSE IN YOUR CAR EVERYWHERE YOU ARE WHEN NEWS IS HAPPENING
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

1000/GENERAL

SERVICE Technician to install, repair pump equipment. Local & tri-state work. Dependable. Salary per qualification 724-350-0198

1010/ACCOUNTING/FINANCE

MEMBER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
Position with local financial institution. Part-time. Experience preferred. Flexible hours. Reply to Box 556 c/o The Valley Independent Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062.

1015/AUTOMOTIVE

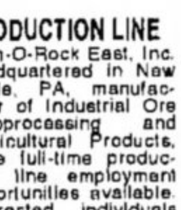
AUTO SALESPERSON
Dodge Chrysler Jeep dealership hiring one Salesperson
- Five Day Work Week
- Pension Plan

If interested, call or stop in and ask for Bill Fraicola
ROTOLO
Dodge Chrysler Jeep
Rt. 88N, Charleroi
724-489-9571

4100/PERSONALS

ASTRO GRAPH
Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday
FRIDAY, FEB. 29, 2008



A number of changes could be in the offing for you in the year ahead. The benefits and advantages you generate from them will determine the number of successes you have. Don't hesitate to go with the flow.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- If you don't think you know exactly what you want, hold off a bit until things become clearer. You don't want to struggle for something only to discover you wasted a lot of valuable time.
ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Flaws and weaknesses in your efforts may be obvious to you, but don't think that those with whom you've involved will pick up on any of your shortcomings. Get out there, act boldly and you'll do well.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- In situations where you are handling money, losses could occur if you're not careful. When it comes to all other things going on in your life, things will run rather smoothly for you.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- It would be a mistake to reject a good suggestion just because it comes from someone you don't like. Review the idea for its merits, because chances are it will prove to be helpful to your cause.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Just because things might not go exactly as first planned, don't lose sight of your objectives. You're a good stretch runner, so if you apply yourself with consistency, things will work out well.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Regardless of what is going on around you, don't hesitate to keep plugging along. You'll end up in a fortunate position because you'll be in the right place at the right time, which will be a big contributor to your success.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Others are likely to do as you do and not as you say, so you had better set the example right off the bat. By the time you pick up on that fact, you could have lost many precious leadership hours.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- If you don't have anything nice to say about others, especially co-workers, don't say anything at all because it will hurt feelings. Conversely, kind remarks will do wonders for everyone's spirits.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Be wary of someone who pretends to be a friend but is really simply looking to take advantage of something you have. Those who are truly pals will be willing to assist you, not take from you.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- You have innate leadership qualities, but if you allow self-doubts to prevail, your associates will pick up on that instead and not on your abilities. If you truly want to run the show, be firm in your convictions.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- There is a positive thinker within you who has the ability to do big things. Don't let this gift go hidden behind negative imaginings. At the first sign of any, nip them in the bud and boldly move on.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- In order to end up in the profit column, you'll have to assess your probabilities with accuracy and not with doubt. Put the emphasis on the former; don't allow the latter to rob you of gain.

VALLEY INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING INDEX

RECRUITMENT - 1000
1000 Help Wanted
1010 Accounting/Finance
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3010 For Sale - Alleg. Co. S.
3015 For Sale - Alleg. Co. E.
3020 For Sale - Alleg. Co. W.
3025 For Sale - Pittsburgh/City
3030 For Sale - Armstrong
3035 For Sale - Beaver
3040 For Sale - Butler
3045 For Sale - Fayette
3050 For Sale - Green
3055 For Sale - Indiana
3056 For Sale - Mon Valley
3060 For Sale - Washington
3065 For Sale - Westmoreland
3070 Condos
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3085 Farms
3090 Manufactured Homes
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3515 Apt./Rent - Alleg. Co. W.
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3525 Apt./Rent - Armstrong
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3560 Apt./Rent - Westmoreland
3565 Houses/Rent - Alleg. Co. N.
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3580 Houses/Rent - Alleg. Co. W.
3585 Houses/Rent - Pittsburgh/City
3590 Houses/Rent - Armstrong
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5210 Trade/Swap!
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6030 Trucks
6040 Sport Utility
6050 Parts & Accessories
6060 Vans
6070 Leasing/Rentals
6080 Auto Sales
6090 Antique/Classic
6100 Wanted To Buy
6110 Auto Service Dealers

Trib Total Printing is a full-service print shop for all of your marketing and advertising needs.

What can we do for you?

Business Cards
Tablets
Postcards
Newspaper Sales Flyers
Coupon Sheets
Brochures
Booklets
Direct Mail Pieces
Tickets
Envelopes
Printed Stickers

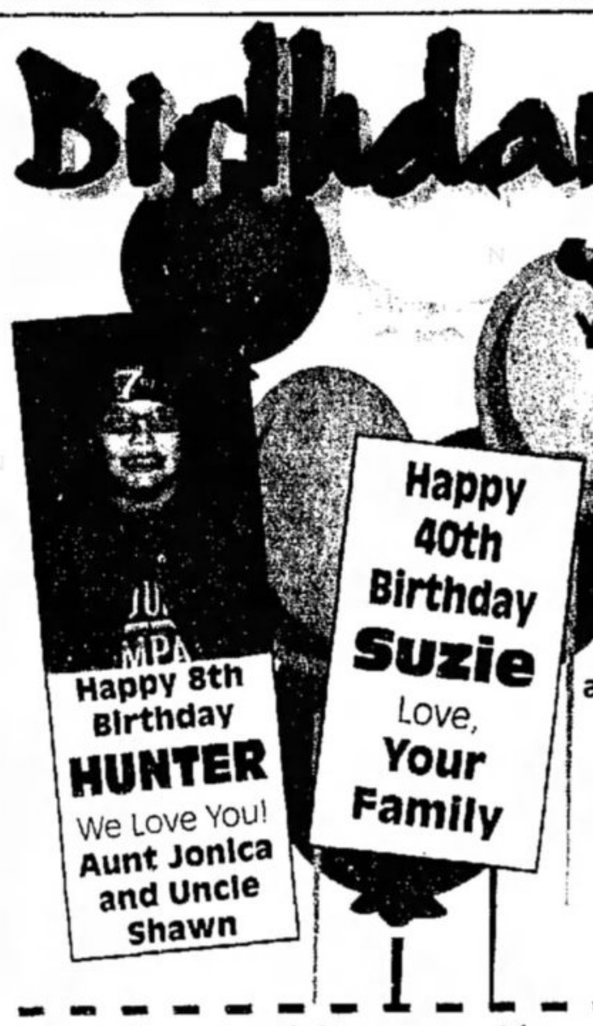
www.tribtotalprinting.com

Trib Total PRINTING
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

For further information contact Greg Killian at 724.779.7159

4100/PERSONALS 4100/PERSONALS 4100/PERSONALS 4100/PERSONALS 4100/PERSONALS

Birthday News!



Your family and friends will make headlines for a day when we feature them on their birthday.

Just send us their photo (color or black and white) along with your personal message. Sorry, no ads can be accepted over the phone.

Mail, or stop in today! Other sizes available Call for rates.

Clip and mail this coupon with your check or credit card number to:
The Valley Independent Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062

☐ - With Photo - 1X3 $26.16 ☐ - Without Photo - 1X2 $10.71

YOUR NAME:_____ MESSAGE_____

ADDRESS:_____

CITY:_____ ZIP_____

PHONE:_____(DAY) PHONE: (NIGHT)_____

CREDIT CARD #_____

SIGNATURE:_____

THE Valley INDEPENDENT
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

Eastgate 19 • Monessen, PA 15062
(724) 684-5200

1025/DRIVERS

TRUCK DRIVER Class-A Hazardous Material

Fortune 500 company seeking direct company driver for our location in the Mon Valley area. Offering competitive hourly wages & union benefits incl. health, disability & pension. Qualified candidates must have HS diploma or equivalent, valid Class A CDL w/Tanker & HAZMAT endorsements, 5 yr. clean driving record, excellent customer service skills & ability to pass drug test, DOT background check & physical. Knowledge of tri-state area & ability to lift 60lbs. required. Interested applicants should mail, email or fax resumes to:
Airgas Specialty Products
P.O. Box 611
Donora, PA 15033
Fax: 724-379-7220
Email: tom.hobaugh@airgas.com
EOE

1040/MEDICAL

ORTHODONTIC OFFICE FRONT DESK SECRETARY

FT or PT position for multi-office practice in the Mon Valley & South Hills areas. Email resume to monvalleyortho@hotmail.com

1040/MEDICAL

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Full-time/Part-time needed for home visits in the Mon Valley area. Must have 1 yr. recent exp. Call Jeanne Henry 1-800-447-2030 or fax resume 412-436-2215.
EOE M/F/V/H

Interim HEALTHCARE.

1050/SALES

OUTSIDE SALES REPS

Full or Part Time
Flexible Hours
Excellent Income Potential

We are looking for aggressive, results-oriented salespeople to join our team to market Home Delivery of **Tribune-Review Publishing Company**
Crew leader, storefront and door-to-door positions are available
Please call 412-610-6378
9am-5:30pm Monday
8am-3pm Tues. & Wed
8am-12 Thursday
Closed Friday

1110/BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

★ LAWN CARE ★ Business For Sale

Well established, turn key operation. Includes equipment & clientele. Call for more details, leave message:
724-929-3952

7 DAY ROUTES AVAILABLE
Tribune Review
Fallowfield Twp. And Donora Areas
Call Jason at 724-272-4437

MONESSEN MOTOR ROUTE OPEN
45 Minutes A Day
Approx. $190 A Month
Call Melissa At 724-684-2647

AT BREAKFAST IN YOUR RECLINER AT YOUR MOUSE IN YOUR CAR EVERYWHERE YOU ARE WHEN NEWS IS HAPPENING
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

1110/BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

MONESSEN ROUTE AVAILABLE
Coolidge Ave.
Mellon Ave.
No Collecting
Only 13 Papers
Call 724-684-2647

2010/ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE NOTICE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of NORMAN J. PENDO, late of Westmoreland County, deceased, having been granted by the Register of Wills of Westmoreland County, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, and to those having claims against the same to present them without delay to:

Debra C. Hunter, Executrix
5963 Oak Park Dr.
Bethel Park, PA 15102
2/28,3/6,13

4000/ADOPTION

ADOPT

Abundance of LOVE, secure future, musical family wishing to adopt your precious baby. Legal/Confidential. Expenses Paid
Call Dale Eileen at 1-888-822-0146

4070/LOST & FOUND

FIND SOMETHING? LOSE SOMETHING? Place your lost & found ad FREE. Runs 4 days at no charge. Call 724-684-5200.

4100/PERSONALS

$195 DIVORCE COMPLETE
No-Fault Uncontested
Reisman & Davis, Pgh
-No Court Appearance or Travel To Office
-Free Information
1-800-486-4070 24Hrs

ALONE & PREGNANT?
A Confidential Caring Friend
Free Pregnancy Test
LIFELINE OF S.W. PA
Call Hotline 24 Hrs.
724-489-9020

PRAYER

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus by adored, glorified, loved & preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days, then publish. Your prayer will be answered. This prayer has never been known to fail. M.S.G.V.

Home Repairs Got You Down?
Get the help you need in the Business & Service Directory!
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA
www.tribtotalmedia.com

1025/DRIVERS

CO. DRIVER- Greensburg Local & OTR. Competitive package. Repeat runs. CDL-A, 1 year exp. Exc. safety record. 724-244-9716

1025/DRIVERS

DRIVER local delivery, must have clean driving record & CDL Class B minimum requirement. Apply in person Valley Tire Co., Inc. 2107 Gibsonton Rd. Belle Vernon, PA

6080/AUTOS FOR SALE 6080/AUTOS FOR SALE 6080/AUTOS FOR SALE 6080/AUTOS FOR SALE 6080/AUTOS FOR SALE

Gerry Raymond's

CHRYSLER Jeep DODGE

HOURS: MON., TUE. & THURS., 9 TO 9 WED. 9 TO 6, FRI. AND SAT. 9 TO 5
724-379-7300
Route 51 • Rostraver, PA
(Located across from Brunswick Lanes)

DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY
20 PLUS 2007 MODELS WITH 8 YEARS OR 80,000 MILE WARRANTY.
BANKS ARE STANDING BY TO FINANCE YOU ON THE SPOT. DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL EVENT.
MUST SEE!!

2 JEEP WRANGLER 4X4's	18,995	1 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN	16,995
1 DODGE CALIBER RT	16,995	1 CHRYSLER 300C HEMI AWD	23,995
1 DODGE CHARGER	16,995	2 JEEP LAREDO's	20,995
2 JEEP LIBERTY'S LIMITED	17,995	1 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER	12,995
3 DODGE MAGNUM SXT's	16,995	1 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY VAN	17,995
1 DODGE CALIBER SE	13,995	1 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING	18,995
2 DODGE NITRO SXT's	17,995	1 CHRYSLER PACIFICA AWD	19,995

1 JEEP COMMANDER..... 18,995

ALL NEW 2007 & 2008's IN STOCK WILL BE AT FACTORY INVOICE, LESS ANY REBATES
FOR 5 DAYS ONLY
(FEB. 25TH THRU FEB. 29TH)

NEW 2008 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5i, 8JB
NEW 2008 SUBARU FORESTER 2.5X, 8FB
NEW 2008 SUBARU LEGACY 2.5i SPECIAL EDITION, 8AC
NEW 2008 SUBARU OUTBACK 8D8

HIGH PRICE GIVEN FOR TRADE-INS!!

0% Plus Rebates On 08's, Special Rates & Rebates Available Up To 72 Months, On CHRYSLER, DODGE, JEEP (Select Models Only)

0% 60 MONTHS ON ALL 2008 RAM TRUCKS LIFETIME

SAVE TIME SAVE MONEY

YOU CAN DO BOTH AT UNIONTOWN TOYOTA...THE QUICKEST PLACE TO BUY A NEW TOYOTA!

OPEN 24 HOURS
www.uniontowntoyota.com

NEW 2008 COROLLA LE AUTOMATIC O.D.

4.9% for 36 MONTHS
$1000 TOYOTA CASH
AC/POWER WINDOWS-LOCKS/CRUISE/TILT WHEEL/AM-FM-CD/KEYLESS ENTRY/ CARPETED MATS
$15,279* OR $159** MONTH

NEW 2008 CAMRY LE

4.9% for 36 MONTHS
$1000 TOYOTA CASH
4 CYL/AUTOMATIC O.D./POWER WINDOWS-LOCKS/CRUISE/TILT WHEEL/ABS/P. DRIVER SEAT/ CD/KEYLESS ENTRY/CARPETED MATS.
$19,399* OR $179** MONTH

NEW 2008 TACOMA 4X4 REGULAR CAB

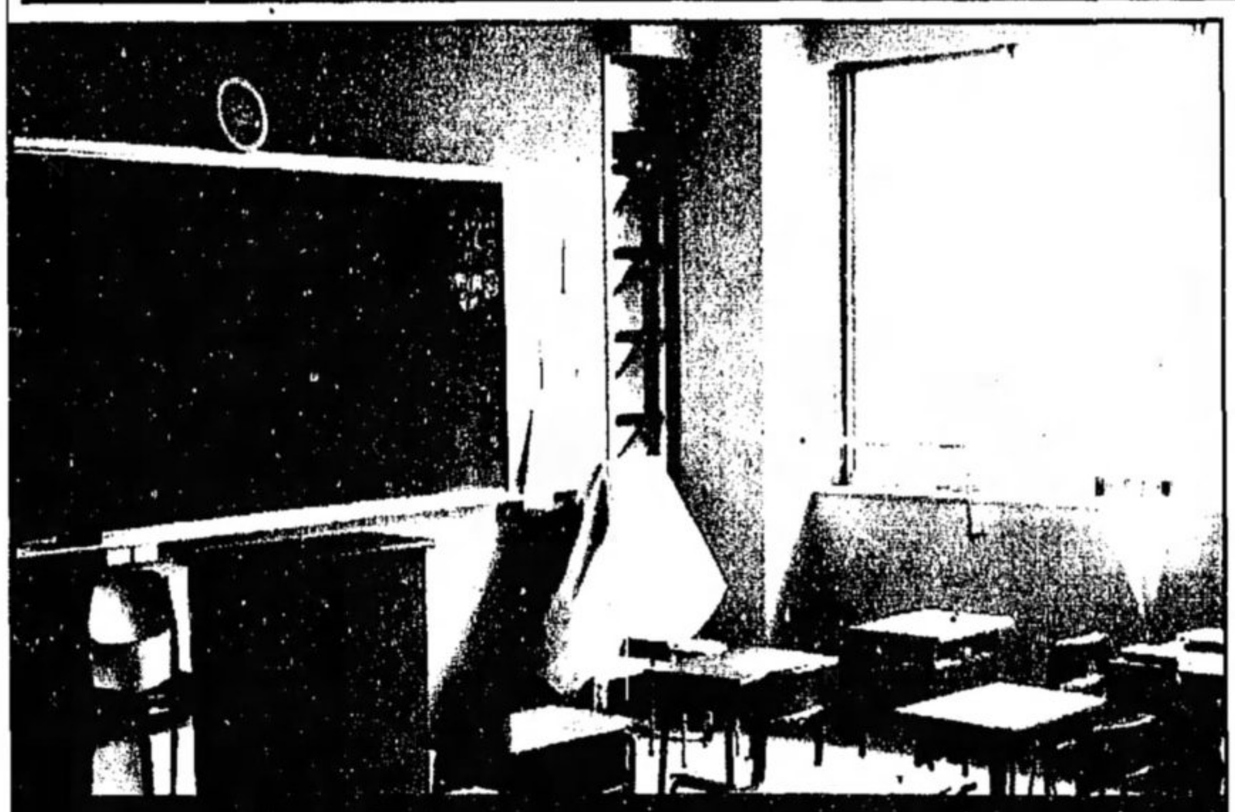
4.9% for 36 MONTHS
$1000 TOYOTA CASH
4CYL/5 SPEED/AC/ABS/TILT WHEEL/AM-FM-CD/SLIDING R. WINDOW/CARPETED MATS
$18,299* OR $215** MONTH

NEW 2008 TUNDRA DOUBLE CAB 4x4 TUNDRA GRADE

2.9% for 36 MONTHS
$2750 TOYOTA CASH
4.7L V-8/ 5 SPEED AUTOMATIC O.D./POWER WINDOWS-LOCKS/TILT WHEEL/AM-FM-CD/LIMITED SLIP/KEYLESS ENTRY/FOG LIGHTS/ABS/SLIDING R. WINDOW/BEDLINER
$26,479* OR $313** MONTH

*Sale Prices Include All Incentives. + Finance Rates Through Toyota Financial Services W/approved Credit. **Lease Payments Calculated At 12,000 Miles/yr. For 36 Months With $2000 Down, 1st Payment, Security Deposit, $500 Acquistion Fees Due At Delivery. Tax/tags Additional. sale Ends 2/29/08

UNIONTOWN TOYOTA.com 724-437-8422



Newspaper in Education

Trib Total Media's Newspaper in Education (NIE) program is a cooperative effort between local schools and newspapers to enhance student learning. The NIE program provides standards-based curriculum and newspapers to area classrooms to help teachers encourage a lifetime of reading, create a fun and motivational learning environment and educate and prepare our young people for the world ahead.

Generous contributions from local businesses and individuals make the Newspaper In Education program possible. Please consider supporting the Newspaper In Education program and be recognized as a supporter of literacy and education in our community.

nie TRIB

www.tribnie.com

REAL ESTATE

3060/FOR SALE/WASH.

CALL FOR DETAILS
MONONGAHELA 2 bedroom, 2 story home. Peaceful neighborhood. Needs TLC. Nice level yard. Owner looking for offers! $30's.
NEW EAGLE 3 bedroom mobile home in Eagle Pointe Estates. Move in condition. Beautiful interior. Home Warranty. $54,921.
NEW EAGLE Well maintained 2 bedroom mobile home in Crestview Estates. Front & rear porches under roof. $18,500.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-348-7470

STOREROOM on 1st Floor
Includes 2 apts. upstairs with separate utilities
LOCATED:
McKean Ave., Charleroi
$19,500
724-366-4946
or 724-438-4461

3065/FOR SALE/WMLD.

CALL FOR DETAILS
3 BEDROOM brick Cape Cod in a beautiful neighborhood. Possible 4th bedroom or family room on lower level. Packed with potential! Make an offer! $75,000.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-929-2180

MONESSEN 2 bedroom, new kitchen, appliances, bathroom, rugs, central air. Must see. $75,900. 724-929-5584

3066/FOR SALE/OTHER

BEST DEAL IN ROSTRAVER
5124 Cedar Hills Blvd. This 3 bedroom, 3 bath quality built condo with custom draperies and so much more is waiting for your approval. Priced to sell at $179,900.

CHARLEROI
Move right into this 3 bedroom home with newer carpeting, designer paint and nice oak kitchen. Cheaper than rent. Call today only $43,900.

NORTHWOOD REALTY SERVICES
724-929-1370

CALL FOR DETAILS
CHARLEROI Charming 2 bedroom on 1 ½ lots, garage, built-in bookshelves. Priced to sell. $57,900.
BELLE VERNON Beautiful brick ranch. 2 bedrooms, totally updated, fantastic back yard, garage. Must see. $139,900
CHARLEROI Multi unit, 3 apartments, fully rented, low taxes. Bargain of the year! $39,500.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-483-3004

3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

CHARLEROI-large clean 1-2 bedroom apts., new carpet, furnished. $275-$360, 1 mo. free. David 1-888-477-9773.

3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

CHARLEROI
1 & 2 bedroom apts. for rent w/intercom, wall to wall carpet, washer/dryer. $325-$400. Security deposit. No pets.
724-292-1189
724-396-1140

CHARLEROI 1 bedroom, cute, newly remodeled, all utilities incl. except electric. $450. Call 412-583-6829.
CHARLEROI downtown full 1 bedroom, appliances, A/C & all utilities inc. $550+ sec. No pets. 724-244-2966.
CHARLEROI large 1 bedroom, 1st floor, free parking. $475 includes all utilities. References. 724-825-8395.
DONORA- 1 bedroom apt., 1st floor, no steps. All utilities included including garbage. $425. Hud ok. 724-379-7327
DONORA spacious 2 bedroom apartment. $450 per month plus electric. 724-263-9050.
DUNLEVY 3 rooms & bath, private entrance, no pets. Heat included. $270 + security. 724-929-8281.
MONONGAHELA- 1-2 bedroom, equipped kitchen, a/c, on bus line. Parking. $300+. Call 724-292-9001.
MONONGAHELA 1, 2 & 3 bedroom new private apts. w/fireplaces, by bus stop. $300-$480. 724-258-2473.

3560/APT-RENT/WMLD.

BELLE VERNON
Lynnwood Area. Townhouse, 2 bedroom, 2 baths, new kitchen, w/w carpet new, wood burning fireplace, move in condition. Inc. sewage, trash removal, refrigerator, stove, microwave, washer, dryer, air. Large rooms, lots closets, very modern. $650. 104 Reed Ave. off Fayette St. 724-258-4700.

3561/APT-RENT/OTHER

MONONGAHELA
Modern 1 bedroom apartment. Air conditioning, refrigerator, stove, elevator, intercom, laundry, storage, security. Starting at $350 + electric. Call 412-257-0902.

3620/HSE-RENT/WASHINGTON

CHARLEROI 2 bedroom, 2 bath, new furnace & A/C, stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer inc. $550. 724-258-2281.
DONORA- 2 bedroom townhouse unit w/ac. $500+ security deposit. Utilities not included. No pets. 412-389-6080 or 724-258-7586.
DONORA- 3 bedroom house, nice yard. No pets. $525+ utilities. Hud ok. 724-263-9050.
DONORA- 3 bedroom home. Stove & refrig., washer & dryer. $400+ utilities. No pets. Call 724-379-5728.
DONORA ½ duplex, 416 Castner Ave. 3 bedroom. $400 plus utilities. 724-379-6997.
MONONGAHELA Park Ave. 2 bedroom, newly remodeled, spacious home. Security, 1st mo., references. $450. 724-984-7083.
MONONGAHELA- 3 bed remodeled duplex, 1½ bath, a/c, dishwasher, laundry room. $540+ security. 724-379-4843.
N.CHARLEROI- 2 bedroom, 1 bath, well kept, off-street parking. $400+ utilities. Call 724-246-2069.
N. CHARLEROI 2 bedroom, ½ duplex. $395.00 plus security. Call 724-267-4405.
NORTH CHARLEROI beautiful 5 bedroom home. $700/month. Call 724-678-0979.

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3625/HSE-RENT/WMLD.

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3700/COMMERCIAL RE

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719 Broad Ave., air conditioning, 1,500 sq. ft., off street parking.
MONONGAHELA
215 Chess St. 2,000 sq. ft. Call 412-257-0902.
N. BELLE VERNON Broad Ave. Perfect for professional, private office, recep. area, restroom, approx. 350 sq. ft. $375/mo. 724-684-5123.

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To Be Published
Saturday, March 22, 2008
L'il Cottontails
It's easy, just send us a cute color photo. Include child's name and a short personal message and mail to us by Monday, March 17, 5 PM. Your child's photo and message will appear on a special page Saturday, March 22, 2008.
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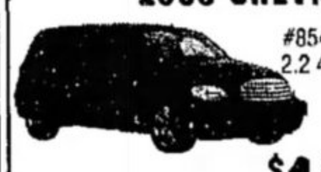
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5310/GARAGE/YARD SALES

BELLE VERNON Winter Indoor Yard Sale March 1 & 2, 9am-2pm. St. Sebastian Parish Hall. General admission 25 cents.

N.BELLE VERNON-1039 Broad Ave. Indoor Sale Tues. thru Sat., 1-6pm. Baskets, clocks, small furniture items, lamps.

5310/GARAGE/YARD SALES

MONESSEN- 102 Sixth St. Thurs. & Fri., Feb. 28 & 29, 10-7 & Sat., March 1, 8-12. Men & women's clothing $3 & under, other misc. Everything must go!

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CAR COAT- ladies size 6-8, new, water repellant. Was $100, now $20. 724-326-5589

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5000/APPAREL & JEWELRY

DRESS- City Triangle, size L, was $80; asking $30. 724-929-7622, 724-929-0116

DRESS- Jessica McClintock size 6, was $125; asking $50. 724-929-7622, 724-929-0116

DRESSES- Jovani size 4 $175; LaFemme/paris size 8 $175; Tiffany size 6 $225; Panoply size 2 $125. 724-929-7622, 724-929-0116.

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RUBY RING- 18kt gold, size 7. $50. Call 724-469-3790.

5020/ARTICLES

BASKETS wicker Easter, 2-$5 ea., 1 lg. $10, 1 oval tray style $5. 724-483-5396.

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TUB BAR- Easy Grip, adjustable, sturdy New, never used. $45. Call 724-379-8026.

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WANTED- Monessen High School Year Books 1974-75 & 1977-78. Good condition. Call 757-556-3591

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5600/LOST & FOUND

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2020/BID NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

PIGEON CREEK SANITARY AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Sealed bids for the construction of the Pigeon Creek Sanitary Authority Sewage Treatment Facilities Centrifuge Addition will be received by the Pigeon Creek Sanitary Authority located, 508 Main Street, Bentleyville, PA 15314 on March 12, 2008, until 3:00 P.M. local prevailing time, at which time and place, said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for the Centrifuge General Contract No. 07-01 (Rebid).

Bids may be mailed to the Owner at 508 Main Street, Bentleyville, PA 15314, Attention: Mr. Rawl Harris, Chairman, and will be considered if received prior to the scheduled time of bid opening. The Owner assumes no responsibility for bids mailed but not received.

The Contract Documents may be examined at the Pigeon Creek Sanitary Authority located, 508 Main Street, Bentleyville, PA 15314 and at the Engineer's Office.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of the Engineer, 260 Airside Drive, Moon Township, PA 15108, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of $100.00 for each set. Make checks payable to Chester Engineers.

Telephone inquiries regarding the acquiring of documents for bidding may be made to the Engineer's Office at (412)809-6600. Only bidders receiving full set documents through the Engineer will be on record to receive Addenda.

Each bidder must deposit, with the bid, a certified check or bid bond security in the amount of 5% of the bid and subject to the conditions provided in the instructions to Bidders.

The work in connection with this project constitutes a Public Works by a Public Body under Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act. Bidders are advised that prevailing minimum wage rates, promulgated by the Pennsylvania Secretary of Labor, which must be paid to workmen employed on this project, are incorporated in the Contract Documents.

Bidders are advised that they must comply with all State anti-kickback regulations pertaining to work associated with this project.

A Pre-bid Conference will be held at the Authority's Office, 508 Main Street, Bentleyville, PA 15314 on March 5, 2008, at 10:00 A.M. Prospective bidders may discuss the project at that time with representatives of the Owner and Engineer.

All bids shall remain irrevocable for sixty days after the actual date of the opening thereof unless award is delayed due to the required approval of another government agency, the sale of bonds, or the award of a grant or grants; in which case, bids shall be irrevocable for one hundred twenty days in compliance with Act 317 of 1978 approved November 26, 1978.

The Pigeon Creek Sanitary Authority reserves the right, which is understood and agreed to by all bidders, to reject all bids, to waive any and all informalities in the bids, and to refuse to consider non-conforming, non-responsive or conditional bids.

Rawl Harris,
Chairman
2/28,3/2

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2002 HONDA- 38,000 miles, moon roof. Very good condition $8,200 neg. 724-684-8198.

2005 TAURUS- 4 dr., 16K miles, leather. Extended warranty. $10,800. 724-938-3512.

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2001 OLDS Alero loaded w/options. $5,500.

1995 MERCURY Sable, V6, auto, 4 dr. $1,795.

1998 FORD Explorer XLT, V6, 4 dr. $4,200.

1997 FORD Explorer, V6, AWD. $3,995.

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$13,763 — 2008 RANGER SUPERCAB 4X4 — $108
$18,587 — 2008 FORD E-150 CARGO VAN — $359
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